

THE TRUE
ANTI-PAMELA:

O R,
M E M O I R S
O F

Mr. JAMES PARRY,
Late Organist of Ross in HEREFORDSHIRE.

In which are inserted,

His AMOURS with the Celebrated
Miss —— of MONMOUTHSHIRE.

Written by HIMSELF.

In Two PARTS Compleat.

PART I. MEMOIRS of his LIFE and AMOURS.

PART II. A journal of his adventures in a cruise
against the Spaniards, on board the Revenge privateer,
Capt. Wimble. With his GENTINE LETTERS
of Love and Gallantry.

V O L. II.

Beware the dangerous beauty of the wanton ;
Shun their enticements ; ruin, like a vulture,
Waits on their conquests : falsehood too's their businesse ;
They put false beauty off to all the world ;
Use false endearments to the fools that love them :
And when they marry, to their silly husbands
They bring false virtue, broken fame and fortune.

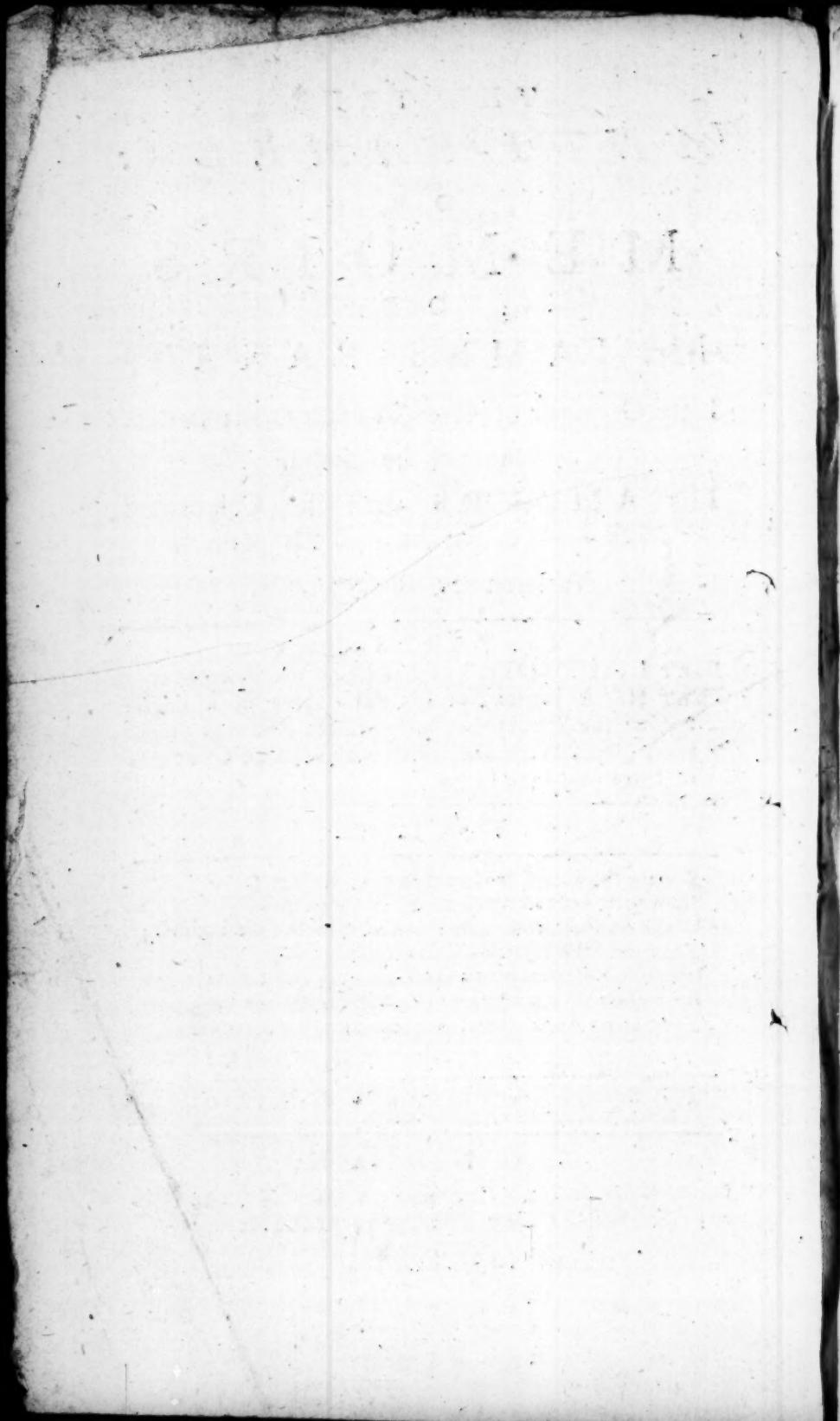
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M DCC LXX.





M E M O I R S
O F T H E
L I F E
O F
JAMES PARRY.

TOOK my leave of Mr. S—, and in my way to Monmouth, reflected upon what he had said concerning Mr. C—ke's managing the prosecution against me. I had some thoughts of waiting upon him in person; but again I considered, it would be more adviseable to send him a letter. Accordingly I did, by his house-keeper, Mrs. M—y (see letter, No. 51.) I was with his eldest son, a good-natured gentleman, drinking a cup of ale, whilst his father perused my letter. After I had waited near an hour, Mrs. M— came, and told me (for the young gentleman and I were in a

stable joining to the house) her master gave his service to me, but he was resolved to prosecute me to the utmost severity of the law. That was serving me with a vengeance you will say. " Give my service to your master, (said I) and tell him, I expect no mercy from him, neither will I beneath myself to that low degree, of begging the least of favours from him." His son expressed himself concerned, and wished it was in his power to be of service to Parthenissa, and myself. Nothing nettled me so much, as Mr. C—k's insolent answer, to so civil a letter. But I had greater reason to be vexed the day following, as you will find, by his contriving the greatest scene of villiany, excepting that of murder, against me, that has been heard of.

As I was standing next day at one Mrs. H—n's door, who is a milliner, I saw one U—d, a butcher, who was constable, go by, and called to him. " G—d— you (said he) for calling to me." I was surprised, and asked him, what he meant? " Mr. C—ke (said he) saw you go up this way, upon which he called to me, and gave me a warrant to take you, at the same time telling me, you was here; and if you had not called to me, I would have passed by you, under pretence of not seeing you. He is now at the Swan and Faulcon window, and sees us talking." I thought myself innocent of any crime that deserved a warrant, so without any hesitation went with him to the room

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room where Mr. C—ke, and justice St—d were. Mr. W—f—ng had been there, but would not stay to be witness to so great a piece of villainy. I made their worships a bow, &c. and immediately Mr. C—ke ordered the constable to go and call Mrs. J—B—h, the milliner. Mrs. B—h, thinks I, what in the name of wonder have I done to her. I have no way injured her, unless it was in pretending love to her, in order to carry on my design with Parthenissa.

Whilst I was thus musing, she came into the room. After Mr. C—ke had complimented her, he bid her lay her hand upon the book. Mrs. B—h was, if possible, as much surprised as I was, at her being sent for. She knew nothing of the warrant, having given no orders for it, although Mr. C—ke granted, or had it granted in her name, and administered the oath to her, “ That she was to declare the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and so help her God, &c.”

To prevent a great many says I, and says she, &c. which I cannot otherwise avoid, I shall set it down in form of a trial.

Mr. C—ke. Pray, Mrs. B—h, what did Mr. Parry say to you, concerning burning of houses?

James Parry. Ha! villain! are you thereabouts. (afide)

Mrs. B—h. To me, Sir?

MEMOIRS OF THE

Mr. C—ke. Yes, to you. Did he never talk to you of burning houses ? or threatening to burn some persons houses ? It was some time ago.

Mrs. B—h. O ! yes, yes, Sir, I remember something of it now.

M. C—ke. Pray, Mrs. Birch, as you are upon your oath, what did Mr. Parry tell you at that time ?

Mrs. B—h. Mr. Parry came to me, and asked me, if I knew any thing of a letter that had been sent to Mrs. P—, concerning Parthenissa and him. I told him, I knew nothing of the letter, but that I was at L—t—o the time that he said the letter was sent.

Mr. C—ke. Pray, Mrs. B—h, how long is it since Mr. Parry asked you, if you knew any thing of this letter ?

Mrs. B—h. It was some time in * October last.

Mr. C—ke. Pray what did Mr. Parry say he would do to the persons that wrote that letter to Mrs. P—, provided he knew who they were ?

Mrs. B—h. He said, if he knew who they were, he would not value setting their houses, or would set their houses on fire, I cannot remember it is so long since, about their ears.

* I mentioned the words about the middle of October, 1735, and was taken up for them in this villainous manner, the 11th of March, 1736, after having frequented Mrs. B—h's house daily.

Mr.

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Mr. C—ke. Did Mr. Parry tell you, that he knew who the persons were that wrote the letter?

Mrs. B—h. No, Sir; he told me, he would give the world, was it in his power, to know the author.

Mr. C—ke. But was not you afraid that he would burn your house?

Mrs. B—h. Who, I afraid? No, not I, I do assure you: Why should I be afraid? He said, the houses of those that wrote the letter; and I am sure I never thought of any such thing.

Mr. Cl—ke. To be sure you was afraid that your house would have been burnt by Mr. Parry.

Mrs. B—h. No, Sir, I never harboured such a thought of him. I do not think he would do any such thing.

Mr. C—ke. I have one question more to ask you. Were not your windows broke some time ago?

Mrs. B—h. Yes, Sir.

Mr. C—ke. Did you not think that Mr. Parry was the person that broke them?

Mrs. B—h. I did not know what to think at first, because I knew he was fuddled that night; and then he is like one mad, if any thing vexes him. However, I taxed him with it next morning, and he assured me, he did not break them, but afterwards gave me a hint who did.

James Parry. Sir, you want this girl to swear a wrong thing against me; but I hope she will have more regard for her soul. The world sees too plainly what you would be at. All this you do upon Mrs. P.—'s account; and I know that you would with pleasure suck my blood, was it in your power. And any one may see that you are barbarously partial.

Mr. C—ke. I partial? you puppy!

James Parry. Puppy, Sir!

Mr. C—ke. Yes, puppy. I partial! I have given money to cloath you.

James Parry. Upon my soul, Sir, you have an uncommon share of assurance! you give money to cloath me, say you? I never wore charity-cloaths in my life. And I will fwear you never crossed my hand with the value of a doit in your life.

Mr. C—ke. I subscribed three guineas to the parish, towards paying you your salary; and that was cloathing you, I think.

James Parry. You talk as if I had been a Blue-Boy. Whenever I wanted cloaths, I had a mercer's shop to go to, with or without money. However, if you gave three guineas towards the subscription - money, the parish is more obliged to you than I, they being to pay me so much per Annum. And I have done what no organist in England has done before me. Or perhaps will after me, i. e. play four years and nine months without receiving a farthing salary.

So

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So that if you had given the three guineas into my hands, I should have acknowledged your bounty publickly. And provided it had been so, you have cancelled all obligations, by your ungentleman-like behaviour, in telling me of it. But this is foreign to the matter in hand. I tell you once more, you are partial upon Mrs. P—'s account.

Mr. C—ke. Cousin St—rd, I beg that you will bind him over to his good behaviour. I insist upon it; though I own (here he sneer'd) it is hard upon Mr. Parry.

James Parry. Was you a gentleman, you would scorn to triumph over a man's misfortunes.

Now would I, was it in my power, give Mrs. J— to the devil, for the fetching my other evil genius. (Aside.)

(Here Mr. C—ke wrote about twenty lines upon a half sheet of paper; and after he had done, he bid her sign her name at the bottom of it, which she did.)

Mr. C—ke. Now, madam, you have signed a bond, by which you are to prosecute Mr. Parry, at the next assize, which is to be held at Hereford within this fortnight.

(Mrs. B—h was as much surprized as any one could be, to hear of a bond being signed to prosecute me; for he never spake to her about it, till she had signed it. And what I was to be prosecuted for, no one could tell, unless it was the devil and himself.)

Mr. C—ke. Have you any body that will be bound for your appearance at the assizes?

James Parry. N—o, Sir.

Mr. C—ke. Then I beg you'd draw his mittimus, cousin St—rd?

Mr. St—rd. No, I beg that you will do it, cousin C—ke.

Mr. C—ke. Nay, cousin St—rd, I insist upon your drawing it; you will very much oblige me, you will indeed, cousin St—rd.

Mr. St—rd. well, if I must do it, I must.

James Parry. (To Mr. C—ke.) You think that you are doing Mrs. P— a piece of service, by harrassing of me, but you are very much mistaken, and that you will find before you are much older.

Mr. C—ke. There is nothing in all you say, and I am sure you lye.

James Parry. I have heard say, that you never was bred up at the university.

Mr. C—ke. You counterfeit Parthenissa's hand.

James Parry. It is a sign you never saw me write. However, since you think so, I shall have recourse to a method, whereby I shall bring your daughter to prove the characters that she taught Parthenissa, and those Parthenissa taught me; I mean miss J—y. All your daughters have seen my writing; and if they would be so free as to speak, they certainly must allow, that I am no more

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more capable of imitating Parthenissa's hand, than I am to purchase the duke of Beaufort's estate. But if you will give yourself the trouble of perusing these * papers, you may easily see I don't counterfeit. But what surprizes me most, is, that a gentleman who is in the commission of the peace, should send to Worcester for the advice of council, to know if I could not be taken up for riding with pistols, &c. likewise for an intent to steal an heiress, whom I had married (but I allow in no legal manner) and have had carnal knowledge of her body hundreds of times. This heiress is two and twenty years of age, and at present has not an inch of land, nor a farthing in money. I am sure if you had consulted your good lady, she would have advised you better.

Mr. C—ke. Who told you, that I sent to Worcester?

James Parry. A gentleman who heard Mrs. P— speak it. I have an intelligence-office in the neighbourhood.

Mr. St—rd. But pray, Mr. Parry, did you ever lie with Parthenissa?

James Parry. I have been with her six or seven hours in a day, without being interrupted by any one, for years. I look as much like a man as any one can, and she knows I am no eunuch. I do tell you once more that I have carnally known her as of-

* I flung the copies of nine or ten of Parthenissa's letters upon the table before him.

ten as any man in the county has a single woman, for these two years past and upwards. But Mr. S— would not be satisfied till I had assured him in the most obscene language, that I had enjoyed her. He advised me to ask Mr. C—'s pardon, as they were going out of the room, but I rejected his proposal. Mr. C— gave the mittimus to the constable, and ordered him to take me to Hereford goal that night, and assured him that he should deem any person his enemy, that would offer to be bail for me. And hearing that I snatched a letter from Mrs. M—k, the post-master's daughter, a girl of about fourteen, which Parthenissa had sent her, begging of her to deliver a message to a neighbour; he advised Mr. M— to prosecute me for that mighty piece of businels. But the other scorned the base action. I prevailed upon the constable to stay that night, and next morning I gave Mr. S— an hundred pounds bail for my appearance at Hereford, altho' Mr. C— had the conscience to ask but eighty.

Mrs. P—'s servant Pen came to town the day that I was taken, and told several, that all her mistress desired was, to have me transported or hanged, she wished for no more. I think that was enough. I went to Gloucester to retain council, and Mr. K— was the first that I applied myself to. After I had laid the affair open to him, he assured me, that if J—y B—h would swear

at the assize (notwithstanding what she had sworn before Mr. C—ke, who, I was persuaded, would stick as close by me, as a leech to my gums, that she was really afraid of having her house burnt by me; nothing could save me from fourteen years transportation. It is to be imagined his opinion was disagreeable to me.

From Gloucester I rode to Monmouth, and sent a messenger to Dingestow for Parthenissa's letters; he brought them, and also a letter from Mr. J—'s lady (see letter, No. 52.) During the tempest of my divided thoughts, the best of friends, Mr. P—, a merchant in London, who I have made mention of before, desired serjeant B—, and Humphrey W— Esq; to plead for me, which they generously did, as you will find hereafter. From Monmouth I went to Hereford, really expecting that J—y B—h would swear something against me contrary to her inclinations, through the persuasive arguments of my potent adversaries. In short, I expected nothing less than transportation; although I had no way injured any one. Well, thinks I, if I must go over the herring pond, there is no avoiding it. I have been at sea, and am not unacquainted with some part of America, so that if I am obliged to quit my native shore, I will not be confined to what province my adversaries please; but will reach Carolina, where I am acquainted. This was my soliloquy the first day

day that I walked in the Town-hall, expecting to be called to discharge my recognizance, but my name was not mentioned. I often ran to the clerk of the indictments, who was a friend of mine, to ask him whether Mr. C— and a young woman had been to take one out against me. He cursed me for a fool, in being so uneasy, and assured me there was no such thing as an indictment for such idle words as I had spoke to J—y B—h, provided I had said them in earnest. What he told me proved true enough. Mr. C— having by this time consulted men of greater sense than himself, saw his mistake, especially as J—y B—h would not, neither could she indeed swear any thing to my disadvantage. She fretted, and wished that Mr. C—, Parthenissa, and I were at the devil, for putting her to forty shillings expences, for a nonsensical, shiddle come fh—. On the last day of the assize, H— W— Esq; moved for my discharge from the recognizances. His lordship, Mr. B—n F—, said, I should be discharged before the court rose up: Mr. W— bid me wait till I was called, and upon paying the fees, I was to be discharged. With that he went immediately out of town in company with serjeant B— h. Mr. C— came afterwards into court, he quickly found that my council was gone, and called to councellor E—s, clapt a guinea into his hand, and took him with him into the crown-bar, where

where I was instantly called. I was satisfied that my appearing without a council would make me look like a jack-afs ; so ran to Mr. K—, and gave him a guinea for coming to my assistance three or four minutes. He came and pleaded, as Mr. W— had done, for my recognizances being discharged. The judge said nothing against it, and Mr. K— told me I had nothing to do but pay the clerk of the assize one pound two shillings, and go about my busines ; with that he left the court. Mr. E— having, as I imagine, the cue given him by his uncle Mr. C—, seeing my council gone, and no one left to speak for me, started up, and moved that I should give fresh securities for my good behaviour till the next assize. He is a gentleman very much admired for his wit, and pathetic manner of expressing himself, which made me speak to him some days before, in Monmouth, about pleading for me. He told me that I was an unhappy young fellow, and that his uncle C— had told him of the affair concerning Parthenissa, but that he would not be retained, nor plead on either side.

Thus the reader may see that even gentlemen of the law are sometimes liable to falsify their words. Mr. C— addressed himself to the judge ; “ My lord, I hope you will continue him upon his recognizance to keep the peace of our sovereign lord the king towards all his majesty’s liege subjects, but

par-

particularly Mrs. J—B—h." Here was a damned piece of villainy: the girl knew nothing of all this proceeding, not being in court; and was as much afraid of me, as a cow of a hay-stack. However I was forced to give fresh security for my good behaviour; altho' no complainant appeared against me, and I am positive that no lawyer in the kingdom ever heard of such another precedent.

I had like to have forgot mentioning, that the first time I was taken into custody in Monmouthshire, Mrs. P—'s adherents sent letters to Birmingham, where there was strong interest making for my being elected organist, informing some persons there, that I was in Monmouth jail for a riot, &c. The report, of course, spread like wild-fire, so that my friends could not pretend to speak any thing in my behalf. By which report I lost at least a chance for the place.

In my way home to Ross, I often perused the letter that Mr. J—'s lady was pleased to send me, and had what she told me concerning Parthenissa's writing to me in characters, confirmed the first day I returned to Monmouthshire. I there met a gentleman of my acquaintance, who is a near neighbour of Mrs. P—'s. After some talk about my affair, he assured me that I was to be indicted at Newport sessions, for some gold that I had of Parthenissa. What's the devil in them, said I? it is true I had some foreign gold

gold from Parthenissa about ten months ago, but I returned it her in two or three days. It is actually as I tell you, said he, and they are resolved to plague you as much as possible. But I beg you will not mention my name, because I am in the commission of the peace; not that I value the family of a rush, yet I should not care to have my name mentioned in your affair, because they will make it a party-business, and I beg you will take no manner of notice of me, whilst upon the bench, but be assured I will do you all the service in my power. I thanked the gentleman, and assured him that I would follow his directions.

Upon the 16th of April (being then at Dingestow) I sent Parthenissa a letter, wherein I protested my sorrow, and deepest concern for what had past, and that the stopping and burning her letter, which she intended for me, almost distracted me, and if she would send me a line by R—ard P—ce the bearer (who was a servant of Mr. J—s's) what to do, or how to behave myself at the ensuing sessions, I would be conformable to any thing she would have me. I told her likewise what I had heard concerning the gold, but that I was certain there could not be any thing in it, because she very well knew that I had it by her consent upon certain conditions, and that I returned it her again, though it was in my power to keep it lawfully.

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The man gave her the letter in Lant—lo church-yard, which she put in her bosom, and gave him a shilling ; charging him not to mention a word of the letter to any one, and bid him tell me she had no time to send an answer.

E—d B— Esq; came next day to Mr. J—'s, and after some discourse foreign to my affair ; he said, that if he had known as much of Mrs. P—'s quarrel and mine, when I was first committed, as he did then, he would have released me from prison without any hesitation. But B—er the jailer, and several others (said he) told me the story in a quite different light, and very much to your disadvantage. I am not in the least surprised Sir, said I, at that R— B—'s saying any thing against me, because it was his interest to have kept me there. As soon as Mrs. P— heard that I would not supersede your commitment, says Mr. B—, she sent me a letter full of compliments, praising me for administering justice, and that it was such impartial men that were fit to sit on a bench of justices.

Mr. B— had a regard for Mr. P—'s family and party, and discoursing with Mr. J—, proposed that I should give up Parthenissa's letters for a sum of money : I told them that would never do, for to my knowledge Mrs. P— had no money, unless she mortgaged or borrowed ; and no one knew better than myself what miss had. " Gentlemen

lemen (says I) I beg you will hear my proposal, and if you say it is an unreasonable one, I will submit to any thing you shall offer. If Mrs. P— will give me the liberty of talking with miss five minutes out of any one's hearing, in order to part amicably with her, I will deliver up her letters into her own hands, and quit my pretensions to her." Mr. B— and Mr. J—, &c. thought my proposal too reasonable; and after I had assured Mr. B— that I was sincere in what I had said, he was pleased to take the trouble of going to Mrs. P—, and made known to her what I had proposed. " Madam (said he to her) Mr. Parry offers to deliver up all your daughter's letters, provided you withdraw your prosecution, not that he values it, and give him the liberty of taking leave of your daughter, where may be five or six to see that he offers no violence or indecency. But he insists that they shall not be within hearing." " No, no (said Mr. T— J—ys, who was in the room, that must never be; if she does that, it will be downright submitting to him: and if my advice is to be taken, Parthenissa never will consent to see him." " It is no business of mine (says Mr. B—y) but what I do is for miss's sake, in order to prevent a great deal of scandal, which undoubtedly would ensue, unless this affair is nipt in the bud." " Pray Sir, says Parthenissa, to him, how can Parry pretend to give me letters, when he has none
of

of mine." "Madam (said Mr B—ry) you must not pretend to tell me that for a truth; I am satisfied to the contrary. Mrs. J—, whose word I will take, offered me her oath, that she heard Mr. Parry offer you all your letters back, and told you he would go out of the country, and never molest or see you any more, provided you would part with him, and give him his letters to you, as he was ready to deliver at that instant your letters to him. This madam, will be proved upon oath against you, if required, therefore you must not think to impose upon me, by your telling me, he has no letters of yours. Notwithstanding her screened impudence and fallacy, she could not make Mr. B—ry any reply, but abruptly left the room disordered."

I had informed Mr. B—ry before he went to L—o, that Mrs. P— was above ten pounds indebted to me for teaching her daughter music, and desired him to ask her if she intended payment of it. When miss left the room, he asked Mrs. P—, as I had desired him. I owe him nothing (said she) and my maid Pen shall swear that she gave him warning, three years ago, not to teach my daughter any more. So that if he did teach, no one agreed with him, and I am resolved not to pay him any thing. When Mr. B—ry returned from thence, he informed me of what had passed, &c. and asked me for some copies of her letters
(be-

(believing I knew more of her than any man whatever.) I gave him No. 3, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 31, 35, 36, which were all that I had transcribed at that time, and were publickly read at Ruperra, the seat of Th—s M—n, Esq;

Parthenissa finding her reputation to be upon the brink of inevitable ruin, was resolved to repair it, if possible, by vile falsehoods. The first notorious one that she gave out was, that Mrs. J—s of Dingestow begged and prayed, nay, that she even went upon her knees to her, desiring that she would marry me.

Whoever has the happiness of being acquainted with Mrs. J—s, will join in opinion with me, and say, that Parthenissa was guilty of a mean-spirited falsehood; for I am satisfied that Mrs. J—s would not condescend to so low an action, provided she could prefer a brother or sister by it. I can make it apparent, that in that point Mrs. J—s was rather my foe than friend, by her telling Parthenissa that she highly recommended her resolution in not marrying any one without her mamma's consent; and whilst they were walking in the garden after dinner, Parthenissa told Mrs. J—s that she did not care to marry me, because she was afraid that I was a rake. Upon which Mrs. J—s replied, you certainly must know what Mr. Parry is after so long an acquaintance, and if he is a rake, I believe it is in no body's power to

re-

reclaim him but yours ; and was I to marry again, my choice should be a reformed rake, for I am satisfied they make the best of husbands. This was all that past between Mrs. J—s and Parthenissa, altho' she could impudently assert that Mrs. J—s pressed her to marry me.

I must own to you, notwithstanding I was basely jilted, I never think of her without the utmost heart-breaking thoughts. I have endeavoured indeed, by forcing my temper to mirth, to bury her out of my thoughts, and time, with good company, has brought me some small assistance ; yet nevertheless I do firmly believe, no woman's charms will ever for the future break my rest, for I am satisfied Parthenissa's charms will never be quite erased out of my memory.

I returned from Dingestow to Ross, and being in company with S—et J—s, M. D. he asked me if I was acquainted with Mr. J—s of Dingestow ? I replied yes, very well. He asked me what make Mr. J—s was of ? He is, replied I, six feet four inches high without shoes, and as well set as any man in Europe. I am sorry to hear it, replied the doctor. Why so, Sir (replied I.) He replied again, because I hear he is a coward. By G—d, said I warmly, whoever told you so is a lying villain, and I am satisfied he would not refuse fighting any one man in the world, provided the quarrel was just. " I'll tell you then, says the Doctor, R—
F—

F—the lawyer said publickly on the bowling-green last Tuesday, that Mr. P— of P— sent a challenge to Mr. J— and he refused fighting him." That honey-comb face son of a—, said I, is a d—d liar, and so I would tell him if he was here, and I thank you, Sir, for this information. I sent Mr. J— a letter immediately, which he answered in an instant (see letter No 53.) and came to Ross upon the Tuesday se'ennight following, in order, if the lawyer had any courage, to have metamorphosed his body into a cribbage-board. But the trembling quill-flogger (instead of saying as he did to Mr. D—, the rascal Parry is in salvo custode) cried peccavi.

The sessions for Monmouthshire was to be held at Newport upon the 5th of May, and resolving to be there time enough, I set out to Abergavenny in my way thither upon the 2d. I was informed there by several, that Parthenissa would be there, on purpose to indict me for some gold that I had of her's, I was very well satisfied to the contrary, but could not imagine what she was to be there for. Thought I, it will be more for her credit to stay at home, and she will be too apt to find it so. From Abergavenny I went to Newport, and just as I alighted at the Kings-head door, a woman that knew me, assured me that Parthenissa, Mrs. J—ys and her son, with several others were in the house. The moment I heard her name

name mentioned at Newport, my blood ran its swift course, and the whole frame of my body felt violent emotions. No words can express the surprize I felt upon being assured of her being there! my thoughts were confounded, and a * chaos of ideas possessed my brain. I did all I could to see her, but for some time to no purpose. At last I saw her go out of the back-door with a gang of all sorts with her. The dove could not be a more pleasing sight to the patriarch Noah, when he returned with the olive-branch in his mouth, than the sight of her was to me. But, on the contrary, to see my rival and my evil genius his mother with her, galled me. I ran across the street where she was to come to, and stood at a door in expectation of her. She came along the street with her eyes fixed upon the ground, and when she came by me, I asked her with a great deal of extasy how she did. She turned her head from me, and would not bestow a single glance upon me. It has been otherwise, said I. Mrs. J—ys (whom I hate worse than a magpye does a toad) gave two or three ha, ha, ha's, and called me poor fool, giving me at the same time a cut-throat sneer. They went towards the Green Dragon, where she was going to be sworn (or rather forsworn.) And, in short, during the time I beheld her, I was in such an extasy, that all my cares were forgot, and followed

* A confused idea.

her

her with my longing eyes till she was out of sight. She was sworn privately before two justices of the party prevalent. But if I had had justice done me, she must have been sworn publickly in the court. Why should I talk of justice in that county, when one in the peace said, he and his brother could make any thing but apples and pears.

As I was going to the Green Dragon, where the justices were at dinner, Phill. M—, Mrs. P—'s attorney, met me in the passage, thinking (as I imagine) that I was coming to speak with Parthenissa, pushed me back, and thrust the butt end of his whip in my face. I was just a going to give him a return for his insolence; but the presence of a friend of mine happily prevented my making an orifice in his carcass.

To drown sorrow, I drank off four half pint glasses of Port wine; and a young gentleman who is bred to the law, came and told me that Parthenissa had been sworn. I care not if she has, said I, I have not any thing of her's, therefore say what you will she cannot hurt me more than she has done. "That is true," said he, "for by G—d the b—h has sworn that you took gold from her, and she would swear your life away from you was it in her power; and by G—d you will be obliged to go to Monmouth jail." Sir, said I, I heartily thank you for your good wishes towards me; and since the perjured jilt has made a journey here on pur-

pose to ruin me, I am resolved to tongue;
pad her before she goes home.

When I alighted from my horse that day,
I own that different passions swelled my soul.
My heart was torn with agonies for her I
loved, and my breast was fired with revenge
against my evil genius and her son. But
when I was assured that the only one I valued
had sworn wrongfully against me, my love
instantly turned into hatred, and from that
time I detested the thoughts of her.

She came out in about a quarter of an hour,
guarded by about five men and as many
women. "G— d—n you (says my friend)
give it her home, or not at all." "Have I
(said I) spent the flower of my youth, and
the quintessence of my blood to satisfy your
insatiable lust? You B—, you vilest of pro-
stitutes, is your pretended love come to this,
and have I sacrificed my All to so bad a
purpose? See here (at that I exposed, what
I have been sorry for since) the token you
gave me to have it set under a ring; thou
d—ned vile prostitute, I am resolved to make
you infamous to posterity." Away she
trudged, and made greater haste to go out
of the town than she did to come into it.
She did not imagine she would have met
with such usage, because I was not expected
at Newport until the last day of the sessions.
My behaviour, I own to be so bad, was
such, that a chimney-sweeper ought to have
been ashamed of; but my provocation was
great,

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great, and so full of passion, that if I was to have been murdered, I could not help giving it vent; not but that I have been sorry for it ten thousand times since.

Soon afterwards I met with J. H. Esq; a gentleman of the best family in the county. He asked me what I intended to do in my troublesome affair? I told him, I was so confused, that I could not resolve how to manage myself. Whatever you do, said he, do not offer to submit to the court, for they are all of a party, and will lay a fine of fifty or an hundred pounds upon you. I thanked the worthy gentleman, and assured him I would follow his advice; and farther, that I stood in no fear of them.

The court sat that afternoon, and I was called to discharge my recognizance, and as soon as I appeared, the clerk in court read the indictment. (See letter No. 54) wherein any one may see that the person who drew it was no way conversant with foreign coin, by calling three pound-twelves double-doubloons. But the indictment, like the author, is an original. As soon as the clerk had read it, he asked me if I would traverse or submit? traverse to be sure (said I) have you no more against me? none that I know of (said he.) I thought (replied I) you might have had one against me for a forcible entry into the body of Parthenissa. If you had any such thing, I would have pleaded guilty to that, instead of traversing, and I

don't question but I shall convince eighteen out of twenty through the whole county of what I assert. "There is no body here that says any thing of that (replied P—M—) we have nothing to do with it." I was asked by the court, if I would give security for my appearance at the next sessions. I answered them in the negative, upon which I was ordered into custody, till I gave bail to one or more justices. Mr. C— (Mrs. P—'s chief orator) moved, that I should give two forty pounds securities, and eighty myself; and that the prosecutor might have four or five days notice of this, before I should be discharged. But his unjust proposal was rejected, and the lord lieutenant of the county (who had heard nine or ten of the letters read) said that twenty pounds each was sufficient, and that I should be immediately discharged upon giving such security. With that I withdrew with the jailor, who confined me in a garret in the same inn, that I used to put up at when I used to teach miss G—n.

The young gentleman, who I have mentioned before, came to me, and assured me that there was another bill going to be preferred against me for assaulting M—y H—s, who was house-keeper to Mr. P—I. If so, replied I, the thicker they come the sooner it will be over; but I am a perfect stranger to any injury that I have done, or offered to her. "I was informed by one of the

the jury (replyed my Friend) that while the palefac'd wh— Parthenissa was under examination, that she did not look once in the jury's faces, but looked steadily upon the floor, and answered to the questions asked but very faintly: and had there been a man of sense to examine her, the bill undoubtedly had been dismissed. But as ignorant as they were they had no good opinion of her, and believe her to be, I am sure most of them, what you have actually made her."

The next day I was brought into court, where was another indictment read against me, for assaulting the house-keeper, and upon my not giving bail (as I had traversed) was committed a second time. To shew that they were resolved to take some pains with me, they presented the jury with a third indictment, for my assaulting J— G—, a tenant of Mr. P—. The jury now began to open their eyes, and saw it was a malicious prosecution, and an intention to harrass me, so returned the bill Ignoramus, and had it been in any other county, I am positive there would have been three Ignoramuses.

As soon as I was brought back to my room again, I flung myself upon the bed, and my harlequin bitch (who, in *Æsop's* days, would have been an especial evidence for me) leaped up upon me. A—se Gr—d coming into the room, and seeing me stroaking her, told me it was, not the first time that he had seen a dog and a bitch together.

The insolence of that v—n provoked me more than Mrs. J—s ever did, and if I had had a loaded pistol, he would have been apt to have found me a dangerous dog, as he was pleased to call me. Whilst I was in court, I observed the jailor gave his opinion as a justice in every case, but particularly mine, which surprised me; and asking a friend of mine how this jailor, above all others, was suffered to take so much liberty? You must know, replied the gentleman, that the jailor is a mighty party-man, and as his party carries the sway here, he takes such liberty, that even several of the justices are unwilling to do, lest they should disoblige the l—d l—nt of the county, that honourable gentleman and family being the persons who brought him from the scum of the earth to what he now is.

On Friday the 19th the jailor and I came to Monmouth, and Mrs P— sent a servant to see if I was there, or bailed out. But I was safe enough, which news he carried to Mrs. P—, and by her's and Mrs. J—'s orders, the bells rang all that night, and part of the next day; for which they were gratified with as much ale and cyder as they could swill down. A gentleman in the neighbourhood informed me of their rejoicing the next day, which was so far from giving me any uneasiness, that I burst out a laughing. I assure you, Sir, said I, that I was afraid she would have indicted me for having criminal

minal conversation with her, instead of money. But whenever she marries it shall be my turn to have the bells ring, for joy that any gentleman should be so complaisant as to accept of my leavings; and that I had got rid of so perfidious a prostitute.

I wrote a letter to Parthenissa (see letter, No. 55.) and sent it by the man, that carried the Gloucester journal, giving him, at the same time, a strict charge to let no one see him give it her. When he came to Mrs. P—, Pen sifted the ignorant fellow, and quickly found that he had a letter for her young mistress. She persuaded him to give it to Mrs. P—, who perused it, and sent it me back by the post-man opened.

Since I mentioned the watch in my letters, I shall give the reader an account how it came to be given me, which I would not do, had not the person under-mentioned advertised his wife in the Worcester journal in the years 1733, 1734, and I believe 1735. Mr. M—n, a surgeon, went to settle in Pershore, a town in Worcestershire. He there got intimately acquainted with Mr. B— an apothecary, and in a few months brought him over to Ross, where Mr. M— had served his time.

I had been often in Mr. B—'s company, and one day in particular, I went out of the town with him, to a pleasant summer-house, known by the name of Kyrle's. "Sir," said he to me, "I like your company very much,

and should be very glad to be better acquainted with you, because it is in my power to serve you, and you in requital may be of service to me." "Explain yourself, Sir, said I, without any farther apology, and depend upon my utmost assiduity to oblige you." "You must know then (replied he, laying his hand upon my shoulder) that I am a person who was born to a very pretty fortune. But unhappily for me, I fell in love with one very much inferior to myself. I strove all that in me lay to bury my passion in its birth, but to no purpose. The oftner I saw her, the more violent my flame grew. I discovered my passion to her, and soon found that I was not disagreeable to her, and prevailed upon her, as I thought her something of the youngest, to go for a year or two to boarding-school at Worcester. She complied with my request, and I was at the expence of her board, dancing, fine cloaths and laces, &c. I frequently went to see her, and after some stay there, I married her. Soon afterwards, to oblige her, I had her sister to live with us as her companion. Instead of requiting me, as gratitude should have obliged her, for bringing her from a mean life to a good one, she vilely abused me by defiling my bed, with a brother galipot one C—of Worcester. I could hardly believe it, at first, but her sister's robbing me afterwards confirmed me that I was in the ready road to heaven." "But, Sir (said I, interrupting

rupting him) what reason had you to believe that you was cornuted?" "Have but patience, Sir, replied he, and you shall hear all I have to say. My maid, who was a very honest girl, gave me a hint one day, that whenever I happened to be absent from home a day or two, &c. there came a gentleman to my wife; and whilst he was there, her sister left them together, and kept the maid company, which gave the girl a suspicion that he was more than a relation, as they pretended to call him. This news almost addled my pericranium. I thought it adviseable to make the girl my friend, so gave her money, and charged her to take a particular care in watching their motions. She did her part faithfully, and gave me no room to doubt my being dignified; and one day in particular, I desired my wife to put three clean shirts in my bags; for (as she believed) that I intended going for Oxford that evening, where I should stay five or six days. She was very expeditious in complying with my request, and, with a deceitful kiss, charged me not to exceed the time I had mentioned." "Excuse me for interrupting you, Sir (said I) but I thought you said you could not believe any thing ill of your wife, until you was robbed by her sister." "It is true (replied he) I could not believe what the girl had told me at first; but my sister-in-law's robbing me, gave me room to think, that if she had not known

my wife to be viciously inclined, she would never have presumed to have meddled with any thing. And I suppose that she was satisfied that my wife would prevail upon me to forgive her, because she was no stranger to what was going forward. But to go on with my story, I mounted my horse, under pretence of going to Oxford, and no one knew when I was to return, but the maid. I bid her not go to bed, 'till twelve, for that I was resolved to baulk her pleasures. The minute my back was turned, my precious wife sent word to her gallant at Worcester, who promised to be with her next morning, by nine o'clock; but I spoiled their sport, as you shall hear. I returned home about eleven, and went to bed to my wife, who was very much surprised to see me so soon. I made some excuse for my quick return, and she lay very restless all night. She wanted to get up betimes, but I would not let her stir by any means; so about nine o'clock, who should run up stairs (for the maid said nothing of my being there) but Mr. C—. My wife jumped out of bed, to meet and bid him be gone, but he caught her naked in his arms, and flung her upon the bed, across my body. I happened to be reading a quarto book, with which I gave him a most damnable knock, which stunned him so, that he ran down stairs, took his horse, and away he rode for Worcester; and i'gad, as soon as she conveniently could rifle me

me of all that lay in her power, she went after him ; and I have advertised her in several papers, and have taken care that she shall not run me in debt." " Revenge, to be sure, is sweet (replied I laughing) ; and undoubtedly, the blow you gave him with the book will not easily be forgot by him, nor your wife neither ; but what is all this to your serving of me, and my obliging of you ?" " I'll tell you (said he) all that I want to have done, is, to detect some man in bed with her ; by which means I can have a divorce, and not otherwise. Now you look like a hale young fellow, and one that can please a woman ; and if you will undertake it, I will make you a present of fifty guineas, and bear your expences, and I will furnish you with a brace of geldings, and a man ; so that you shall attack her like a person of fortune." " Is she handsome ? (replied I) ; and is she a good bedfellow ?" " Yes, by G—d (said he) she is the best bed-fellow in the world, and is as fair a woman as any in England ; and you are the only person I know, who is fit for such an undertaking, because you can sing, and play the spinnet, both which she likes mightily ; and if you say you will undertake it, I don't doubt but that you will gain your point shortly ; and the servant who shall wait upon you, must, by your directions, give me notice that you are in bed together ; at which notice, I will bring three or four witnesses into the room,

to her real shame and confusion, and your sham one ; by which method I shall be able to get her divorced from me, and I will do my endeavour to marry a worthier woman : therefore, the sooner we go about it, the sooner we shall accomplish our design, I will take care to be in private lodgings as near you as possible ; and if you doubt the payment, you shall have money before-hand." "No, no, sir (said I) not in the least ; and I do not doubt but that I shall behave to your satisfaction." So after we had consulted what dresses I was to appear in, &c. the illiterate apothecary and I parted, promising to hold another consultation, before our design was to be put in execution.

The minute I left him, I went to Parthenissa, and imparted to her the result of our discourse, who heard the beginning very attentively ; but when I mentioned that I was to go over to enjoy the woman, she burst out into tears, and with up-cast eyes, looked as dismal as Ananias in one of the seven cartoons. My Dear, said I, if I had an inclination to have done such a thing, I never would have informed you of it ; therefore don't be uneasy. It is a jobb that I should have been apt to undertake, if I had not been blefs'd in thy arms, but whilst heaven permits me that blessing, it shall be in no one's power to tempt me from thee. My dear boy, replied she, thou dost know what a fond doating fool I am, and I cannot

cannot help believing every thing thou dost say to me; and to let thee see how much I shall acknowledge myself thy debtor, for being constant to me, take this watch, and wear it as a token, that I will, in a short time be thy lawful wife. (This watch had been her mother's, and I had it picked out of my Pocket, May 15, 1735.) But, to return from my digression.

Being safe in goal, Mrs. P—'s party immediately gave out, that if any Roman Catholick gentleman should take my part, the others would go in a body to the lord lieutenant of the county, and petition that he might use his interest for having the penal laws put into execution. Every person, of common understanding, laugh'd at those menaces; being satisfied that the legislature would not give a body of people uneasiness, for the sake of worthless upstarts, who, upon occasion, would be of the same opinion as the vicar of Bray.

I did not ask any of the gentlemen that I had the honour to be acquainted with, to be sureties for me, because my affair was immediately made a party busines: and I will take upon me to say, that if any persons should happen to be involved with difficulties in that county, they must not expect impartiality there, unless they are of the party which is the most prevailing.

Parthenissa now thought it high time to take a little pleasure in riding about; for

from

from October 'till May, she went not much from home; and as I was caged, she was determined to go and see Ross, being satisfied that no one there would publickly affront her. She went there, with two or three in company, particularly master Dicky J——ys, and were soon joined by some of miss's acquaintance, who, to my knowledge, only wanted the opportunity of being serviceable in the use of generation; but, poor girls, there was not a young fellow in the town that was capable of speaking to them. A gentleman (the moment he saw her come to Ross) said, she was a vile b—, and had the impudence of hell; some hipp'd her, and some young lads called after her, "Where is your husband? where is Parry the organist? who put the man that — her in goal, &c." She being the reverse to Lot's wife, never look'd behind her, but trudged with her gang towards her mother's house, in order to go to the Hill, in her way back to Monmouthshire. One of the church-wardens happen'd to be trying his hand upon the organ, as she passed by the church. The moment she heard the organ, she was ready to faint, thinking it to be me that played, after having been bailed out of goal. She sent her Duenna immediately to the sexton, to know who it was that played; he told her, it was Mr. P——r the barber, that was diverting himself. Pen P—— acquainted miss with it, who was something revived

revived by this time from her fright. They went to the Hill to dinner, and after some short stay, returned to Monmouthshire. Even her well-wishers blamed her conduct, in coming to Ross, at that time in particular ; and not to set foot in it for two years afterwards, plainly shewed that she ~~imagined~~, her coming there, whilst I was in custody at another town, would have made people form a good idea of her ; but she found herself mistaken. But to return to what concerned me most. P— M—, Mrs. P—'s attorney, removed the two indictments (which were found against me at Newport) by Certiorari, into the King's-Bench, and served me with two copies of writs of —. I confess, he, so far, very much obliged me, in doing me a piece of service ignorantly ; for my chief intent was to have moved the indictments, if he had not ; so that he marred me in pains and money. In about five days afterwards, Mr. M—'s son served me with two copies of writs, called, —— and advised me to put an appearance to them ; but I, at that time, rejected his advice.

Being sensible of the bad situation of my affairs, and the illepidity of the place, I sent to several in the town, thinking that some of them would have been bound for my appearance, in so trifling a sum ; but they did not care to bail me, lest they should incur the displeasure of such and such gentlemen,

lemen, who were of Mr. P—'s party; but added, they would do me all the service in their power, in any other respect; and if I wanted common necessaries, I should be welcome to any thing, upon my sending to them. This, I must confess to be more than I could reasonably expect from people whom I had no obligations upon. I afterwards sent to Ross, to several, and had the same answer, that they would do any thing for me, excepting being bail; that they could not do, lest they should disoblige Mr. C—ke, who they knew to be Parthenissa's relation, &c. But what fretted me yet more, my most intimate acquaintance, was out of the country, so that I was debarred of his advice, &c. At last, two of my acquaintance, who did not regard Mr. C—ke, &c. came over to me at Monmouth; from thence they went to the seat of Ed—d B—y, Esq; and offered themselves sureties for me. He sent to the jailor, advising what to do, because my friends were inhabitants of another county; but that if the jailor would bring me to the Red Hill (half way from Monmouth to Mr. B—y's) he would make it up some way or other, and the jailor should have his fees, &c. immediately paid him. The jailor returned for answer, That he could not pretend to bring me out, unless there had been a Supercædas sent him; and that if Mr. B—y did take it upon him to release me, he would disoblige several gentlemen in the county, who were exasperated

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rated against me for my rude behaviour to that virtuous young lady Parthenissa. The impudent Machiavel knew well enough, that it was his interest to detain me prisoner as long as he could ; but he lied like a V—n, in saying, That several gentlemen (particularly those he meant) were exasperated, for they stood very much my friends afterwards, without any public shew. However, Mr. B—y excused himself from supercæding my commitment. R—d J—s, Esq; was that day particularly engaged, so could not possibly go with my friends, but directed them to J—s S—'s, Esq; that worshipful gentleman assured them, that he would not release me upon any account whatsoever. My friends returned to Mr. J—s's, and informed him of what had passed at Mr. S—'s ; upon which, he was pleased to go to him, and offered himself as a bail. "Sir (says the justice) I will accept of none." " You cannot, replied Mr. J—s, justify refusing bail, as long as you have sufficient security offered to you." " We Monmouthshire justices (replied Mr. S—, can do any thing, but make apples and pears ; and I do assure you, Sir, that I would not take a thousand pound bail to set him at liberty, because madam P— is too deeply concerned in it."

Mr. J—s was sensible, that, upon occasion, old S— would have abated 999l. out of the thousand, to have discharged me ; and that his puffing was owing to the many good eatables

eatables and drinkables that he made himself welcome with at Mr. P—'s; and if he had taken my part a second time, he consequently must have been an unwelcome guest there ever afterwards.

Mr. J—s came home immediately (finding that I was to have no justice done me in that quarter) and wrote a letter to Tho. S—t, Esq; thither he sent my friends, in order to bail me. When he perused Mr. J—s's letter, he told them, that he would have no hand in it; and added, that Jemmy S—— was the person that first committed me, and afterwards superceded that commitment, and that he was the properest person to get me my liberty. When I heard it, I was not in the least surprised, because I knew Mr. S—t to be under very great obligations to Mr. P——.

Nothing added more to my misfortunes, I mean as to ruffle my temper, but that I daily heard, or at least three times a week from Ross, of my being abused by a parcel of flirting pussies, whom I have had in my power to have used, as any young rake would a common woman of the town; but notwithstanding my base usage, and considering that reproach and obloquy are female vengeance, I was illachrymable.

My acquaintance advised me to make myself as easy as my circumstances would allow of, especially since I was fallen into such vile hands, and it would not be a great while

while before quarter sessions began ; at which time I must of course be discharged, because Mrs. P—'s agents had moved the court. That, and some other reas ons, made me for some time passive : not but that I most certainly was in the worst jail in the kingdom (I mean as to myself) and I found it to be so for the following reason.

The jailor's wife, was a person of a spurious birth, whose father was a settler, or bailiff's follower. She at last arrived to the honour of being Mr. M— P—'s house-keeper. After she lived there some time, she quitted the service of a foolish master, and a drunken mistress ; kept, as long as she could be trusted with any thing, a pedlar's stall at Usk (an inland town in Monmouthshire) where, being timorous of sheriffs warrants, &c. she withdrew from thence, none could tell where, till she was seen in the capacity of a servant at Monmouth jail. The jailor being her kinsman, and she pretty tractable (after he had —) married her. All this I heard from a prisoner, at my first coming in.

I entered myself as a boarder (as soon as I came from Newport) with the jailor, thinking thereby to ingratiate myself into his wife's favour ; knowing her, as well as him, to be very insolent, but not unlike their grand master, good-natur'd when pleas'd. There were three boarders besides myself, and each of us paid ten shillings a week.

The

The sheets my chum and I lay in, were as coarse as a nutmeg-grater, and the colour of the owner's face, which I cannot compare to any thing, excepting damaged gingerbread. Every boarder was obliged to have a quart of ale or cyder at dinner, which made two shillings and four pence per week more. No boarder was allow'd any small beer at supper or breakfast; so that they must either drink water, or buy ale, &c. no one being allow'd to send out for any sort of liquor. But what I thought most monstrous, was, the jailor and his wife, and very often several of his relations, at dinner drank of our liquor, and never offer'd to pay a doit, nor call for any in upon their own account: so that it is no wonder how that v— came to get so much money, selling every thing at an exorbitant price, in a plentiful country.

One day in particular we had a boil'd mutton pye for dinner (I believe, and speak the utmost, there was not two pound of meat in it, but crust in abundance; which is eating that I have had an aversion to, ever since my return from America) I begged her to help me to as little of the mutton as she pleas'd, but as for crust I would have none. She flew into a passion, and swore by G— if I would eat none of the crust, I should have none of the meat. I was as warm as herself, and without any more ado helped myself sufficiently, which vexed her, insomuch that she was incapable of eating
her

her dinner. She at that time stifled her resentment (especially as her husband was from home) and I was determined to be off as a boarder. I made a feign'd resolution not to eat any flesh, till I had seen or heard from some of my friends. As soon as she found I would no longer be a boarder, she gave me to understand by her haughty behaviour (consisting of haughty looks, intermixt with beggarly pride) that I was to keep my distance, in not coming into the kitchen, &c. as usual.

One day she observed me walking near the door next the street; upon that she called the turnkey, and bad him shut a door that parted the apartments between the jailor and prisoners. Don't, said she, let that fellow come near this room, but let him go and write his life, as he talks of doing it (I had given her a bottle of wine the night before, in order to get a civil word from her now and then; but when the liquor was out, she behaved in the most grandiforous manner imaginable, and ordered us all to our kennels) I will (says I as loud as I could) and by G— I'll give you your just character in it. At that she took a flesh-fork and ran towards me, saying, G— d— you for a son of a B—h; I'll slit your skull, by G—. Two gentlemen who were prisoners, prevented her coming near me; but she gave (her husband being abroad) orders that I should be confined to my room immediately.

In

In about half an hour R—d J—s, Esq; and T. T—n, M. D. came to see me. She very artfully burst into tears, and told them, that I had (an impossibility) abused her insufferably, and that she was afraid I should murther her. She then called to several in the house to avouch what she had said, but the persons called were the most conscientious part of the prisoners, and neither of them said pro or con, knowing her addicted to lying, which faculty I imagine she might have retained from the time of her living with Mr. P—. As soon as the door was open'd with an intention to speak with Mr. J—s, &c. she ran at me, and gave me a left-handed cuff. I was resolved to spoil her curt'sing for some time, by exercising the talents of my toes upon her, but was prevented by Mr. J—s, &c. As soon as the gentlemen left me, I was again cubb'd up by the Amazonian's orders, till her husband's return, who gave me a reprimand for what I did not deserve, and afterwards allotted me the common liberty of poor debtors.

Being sensible that there were some weeks till sessions, I began to write the memoirs of my life, and began from the day of my birth, &c. I wrote every minute action that I had been concerned in, till I was 15 years old; and if it had been finished, it would have been a great deal more tedious than this book is. By the time that I had written 39 sheets, the jailor's wife found me to be in

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In earnest, and expecting to see herself in print, thought to have it prevented, by ordering one of the prisoners (or did it herself) to steal the manuscript out of my room; which accordingly was done, and immediately burnt or torn to pieces by her.

I made all the inquiry imaginable about it, but to no purpose. I at last thought of an effectual means, which was by making Henry M—y, Esq; (who was a prisoner for large sums) drunk. He assured me, that the jailor's wife had (by the contrivance of W—d) taken it out of my room and burnt it. I acquainted several gentlemen of Monmouth with my loss. Some advised me to be easy, as long as my hand was in the Lyon's mouth, and others blamed me for pretending to write any such thing there, especially as the jailor's wife would do me all the prejudice in her power, upon Mr. P—'s account; and besides, what happened to me before my unhappy amour with Parthenissa, was of no manner of consequence, especially to the circumjacent country, where we both were known. And if you are bent upon printing, added they, publish no more than your intrigue with her, and let people know every thing in its true light; especially as they have had no regard for your welfare, which has been plainly shewn by their harrassing of you in so unjust a manner, &c.

I have observed to the reader, in some foregoing pages, that Mrs. P— was indebted
to

to me in several pounds, for teaching her daughter music. The post man had a strict charge not to bring a message or scrip of paper from me, so I sent her a letter (see letter, No. 55.) by an acquaintance, but I never received an answer to it.

Mr. C——ke's eldest son called upon me one day (I think it was in July) as he and his sisters were going to the christening of a child of Mr. E——ns's, of Langaddock. He gave me a piece of money, with his mother's complements. I was not fond of accepting any money from that quarter, upon his father's account; but the young gentleman pressed me, and said, Mr. Parry, I beg, and my mother hopes you will not be too severe upon Parthenissa's Character. I beg, Sir, replied I, you will give my sincere respects to the good lady your mother, for this unexpected civility, &c. but it is a thing impossible for me to be severe enough with Parthenissa, because she has utterly undone me, and she can better bear the loss of her reputation than myself, she having a fortune to support her, and I nothing to live upon but my business, which is ruin'd through her vile means; and in justice to myself, I will publish the amour, to convince the world of the many injuries done me. But you may assure your mother, added I, that I shall have a greater regard for the fair sex, than to publish all I know of Parthenissa; for should I do that, she would

would be thought a prostitute in nature, and a monster in vice, notwithstanding her outward sanctified face; and I am sorry that I shall be obliged to make mention of your sister J—ny's name, concerning the invented characters, but cannot pass by so material a point. The young gentleman took his leave of me in a friendly good-natur'd manner, and in a day or two I wrote to Mrs. C—ke, thanking her for the favour conferred upon me; and in the same sheet I sent her copies of Parthenissa's letters, No. 3, 10, 13, 31. I would have sent some more, but that I imagined they would not have been read in a family related; and whether those I had written were received or not, I cannot determine; because, as (shamefully) the jailor is post-master, his wife was commonly in the office.

The sessions were to be held at Chepstow, the 14th of July. I expected to have been discharged upon my appearing; so in company with one John Parry, who was a prisoner for getting a girl with child (a case diametrically opposite to mine) I walked to Chepstow. The jailor escorted us on horseback. I quickly heard that there was to be an indictment lodged against me, which proved very true. When I came into court, I was discharged from the two indictments found against me at Newport; but there was a fresh one found against me for assaulting J—e Gr—d. I was surprized to hear the

indictment read at Chepstow, because it was the very same form of that which the jury at Newport rejected because of its vileness. Honest P— M—n, Mrs. P—'s attorney, being willing, or rather resolved it should not be returned Ignoramus this bout, brought down those that, if possible, would out-swear any of the fortunate witnesses, who have kissed the book at the Old-Baily for these 20 years.

The justices advised me to submit to the court, every one being satisfied of the baseness of the prosecutors. I thank'd the worthy gentlemen for their well wishes, but assured them, I would not submit to Mr. P—'s proceedings, nor any of the infernal crew, provided they had a thousand indictments against me. I was importuned by the worshipful gentlemen several times more, to submit, but I rejected their proposal as before, with thanks ; and so for want of bail, was ordered once more for Monmouth jail.

I dined with some farmers (the jailor being no way dubious of losing me) who lived adjacent to Lan—o Cro—ny. They informed and assured me, that the indictment which was found against me, had never been brought on, if Mr. P— had not sent Am—se Gr—od a letter; declaring, that notwithstanding the jury at Newport would not find the bill, if he did not indict me afresh at Chepstow, for assaulting his wife, he should not serve him any longer in quality of a groom,

groom, neither should he live in the house any longer, nor should he and his wife keep a publick house in the parish. So, added they, what the fellow has done now, is by compulsion, and Mr. P— (though under the rose) is at all the expence himself: so that if the fellow had not followed his master's directions, he must have starved.

This usage from a fool of fortune's favouring, who was so knavish withal that he would pay no debts; he has been enforced to skip from Surry to Middlesex, from thence to Kent, and alternately around, being fearful of sheriffs officers. This usage, I say once more, from a scoundrel of no manner of principle, and one who was a scandal to a bailiff's follower, gave me no small uneasiness; and if he had had not a microphthalmia in his eyes, he must have had an incertitude of his sister's actions, from the strong inuendo's given him concerning her.

I have before mentioned, in the beginning of these Memoirs, in how indecent a manner he behaved towards her, at a time that my soul was ravished with incredible delight in gazing at her. I have often reflected upon that base behaviour, and I cannot help saying, that I solemnly declare and firmly believe, that was it in his power he would have used her, as Ammon did his sister Tamar (vid. 2 Sam. xiii. 14.)

On Friday 16th of July, I returned to Monmouth with the same companions.

I had been a prisoner in Monmouth eight weeks before I acquainted my sisters of the disagreeable situation of my affairs; and the day before I went to Chepstow, I received a letter from my eldest sister (to whom Parthenissa has wrote two, which letters, as well as all the rest, I am ready to produce) telling me, that my youngest would be with me in a few days from Carmarthen.

If it had been my (good or bad) fortune to have married Parthenissa, and to have lived ever so well, my sisters (I am positive) never would have been troublesome, nor would they have expected any thing from us. And as the hopes of seeing either of them (if ever they came that way) at a home of my own, was frustrated, I was very unwilling to be seen by my nearest blood in a prison. I immediately sent my youngest sister a letter, begging of her to lay aside the thoughts of coming to Monmouth, being a long journey; and farther assured her, I should be released in a short time. My letter proved of none effect; her resolution of coming was fixed, because she thought my case to be more dangerous than by much it was.

On Saturday the 17th, as I was playing at fives with — B—d, Esq; and Mr. W—m P—n, jun. (both of the forest of Dean)

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 53

Dean) the turnkey called to me, telling me, that there was a gentlewoman that desired to speak with me. I ran up, and who, to my agreeable surprize, should it be but my sister. She burst into tears, which sight I could not bear, so desired her to sit down in my room, till I had returned the gentlemen thanks for their visit.

My sister expressed herself well pleased to find the matter not of so ill consequence as it was reported down in the south of Wales. "But why would you come here (said I) after I had in my letter desired you to suspend your journey? there were different reports spread about our town (replied she) and I was afraid that your case was like one M—es, and miss S—e of Lowhadden, in Pembrokehire. My heart (continued she) was in a drooping condition, till I came to Abergavenny, where I heard that your precious devil Parthenissa ought to be confined with you, if she had had her deserts. (That indeed revived me.) I have brought (added she) two letters with me, in behalf of our family, and your character; the one from J—n P—ps, Esq; receiver-general of South-Wales, to Ed—nd B—ry, Esq; and another from — W—s, Esq; to T— M—n, of Penllwyn, Esq; both which letters shall be delivered out of hand, &c."

My sister's stay in Monmouth was something above a fortnight, during which time my sister and the jailor's wife were as great

as Spittlefield weavers. She at that time gave me kind looks, and good words; and as soon as my sister returned to Carmarthen, she sent her a present of tea.

At length (after an imprisonment of 16 weeks) through the intercession of Mr. P—ps, Mr. B—ry accepted of the first bail offered, in order for my appearance at the next sessions, which was to be held at Caerleon upon Usk, in the same county.

A stranger may wonder how the sessions should be held at so many different towns in the same county. That query is soon resolved. The lord-lieutenant of the county, and the town of Monmouth, are of different opinions; the former being of (what they call) the court interest, and the latter of the country's. (I can make it apparent, that I have suffered by being acquainted with one party more than another.) The lord-lieutenant, for that reason being unwilling that Monmouth should partake of the profuse pence, the gentlemen, &c. hold the sessions at Abergavenny, Caerleon, Newport, Chepstow, and the poor town of Usk, alternately.

When I came to pay the jailor's bill, he insisted upon a guinea for his trouble and expences, in bringing me from Newport to jail. All the money that was spent upon the road was three pence, which I paid for a glass of brandy at Usk. He made me pay him another guinea for taking me down to Chepstow;

Chepstow; and it must be observed, that he obliged me to walk. No v—n besides himself would have exacted upon any person in that manner. His reason was, I was able to pay it. It was his business, I am of opinion, to take his prisoners without being paid for it, unless he provided them with a horse, meat, drink, &c. I believe most people will join with me in the same way of thinking. After I had paid him his bill, he pretended a mistake in his calculation, and brought me in debtor to him ten shillings more: "But (said he) as your money is exhausted, I will take your note of hand for five shillings."

I gave him a note with pleasure, eager of being at liberty; and at my going out, I asked him for my horse-whip, which I gave him to put up for me, when I came in prisoner. "I have used (said he) and like it, and for that reason I never will part from it." "Give me the note of hand (said I) if you will not deliver me my whip." No! he would not!

Thus this monster serves every unhappy person that falls under his clutches. He is up-helded in his villany, and there's no redress to be met with, he having the protection of gentlemen, who are really unacquainted with his turbulent temper, and arrogant behaviour. The Machiavel behaves modestly before his patrons, and cringes and fawns like a spaniel; but when

he has got the predominancy over any unhappy person, the lord have compassion upon them; and, I am afraid, unless he timely repents, the devil will have the mastership over him, for (together with his wife) his ill usage to a good-natur'd gentleman (Mr. M—u) and an unfortunate young woman (daughter to a clergyman) who hang'd herself, to prevent any farther base usage from them, whose body they exposed in the most obscene manner, and afterwards gave it (as faithfully reported) to an acquaintance of mine, in order to be anatomicized. I will give myself no farther trouble of mentioning his or her name, least (as John Cleveland said of the Scots)

“ I wrong the Devil should I pick their Bones, &c.”

August the 20th I went to Hereford, and at the assizes had my recognizance withdrawn, which Mr. C—ke. (as I have mentioned before) unjustly made me give. Mr. M—so, clerk of the assize, having heard in what a villainous manner I was used, generously declined taking the accustomed fees from me. H—ry W—ley, Esq; brought down a Certiorari for me, in order to remove the infamous indictment found against me at Chepstow, into the King's-Bench. I informed him and Mr. serjeant B—h with the cause of the last indictment's being found against me. They advised me to get, if possible, the letter that Mr. P—— wrote to Am—se

Am—se Gr—od, by which means it would be in my power to make an example of so worthless a paltroon. I endeavoured as much as possible to get a sight of Am—se's letter, but my expectations proved fruitless.

I passed away my time at Ross and Monmouth till the 6th of October, when the sessions began at Caerleon. I went down there, having my Certiorari with me, imagining they might hatch another indictment against me, and was sensible they stood in no need of rappers. I gave them to understand, that I had wherewithal to remove the court were there forty indictments against me.

As the court was going to sit, a worshipful gentleman informed me, that my affair was talked of at dinner, and that the justices, being thoroughly acquainted with my hardships, and the occasion of the indictment, were resolved to fix no higher fine than a shilling, let my adversaries swear what they thought proper. "I know (added he) your stomach was too high to submit, therefore I advise you by no means to lay your Certiorari, because it will cost you as much, if not more, to remove the court, as it will to try the affair outright." I took the gentleman's advice, and tried the whiffling cause.

When the jurors were sworn, Mr. C—d (Mr. P—'s agent) opened the cause; setting forth the heinousness of my crime, in making a forcible entry into the house of M—

P—, &c. terrifying the servants, and assaulting them, &c. The next that backed him was Mr. G—n, of Caerleon, he with a laudible voice, said the same as Mr. C—d had done. But as to the third, Mr. P—M—, he muttered and stuttered something inwardly which nobody understood.

I had but one to plead for me (who proved enough) Mr. J—s D—s, jun. of Llanerthill. He behaved warmly in my affair, and came off with credit far beyond the expectation of any one of his years.

The evidences were called, and the first was W—m Ed—ds, a youth of about seventeen years old, who was sworn.

Court. What do you know concerning this forcible entry and assault?

W—m Ed—ds. I was in justice P—'s kitchen upon a Sunday night, and Mr. Parry knocked at the door; one of the maids opened it, and he came in drunk, and asked for madam P—. The maids and all of us said, she was not at home. Then Mr. Parry damned her, and wanted to know what was the reason he could not be entertained at the publick house for his money. With that he was going towards the little parlour, where madam, and miss, and Mr. J—ys, &c. was. But M—y H—ns, the house-keeper, hindered him to go to the little parlour, and in striving to hit M—y H—ns, he did strike J— of the Ostrey with the butt-end of his whip, in a very violent manner.

Court,

Court. Did you observe her to bleed, or did any bruise appear?

Will. E—ds. No.

Court. Call the next witness, which was J—n R—y, and swore exactly the same, and particularly mentioned my striking her violently with the butt-end of my whip.

Court. Call the next witness, which was Jane G—d, what have you got to say concerning this forcible entry, and your being assaulted by Mr. Parry?

J—G—. It was upon a Sunday night, Mr. Parry alighted at our door, and the moment I heard his voice, I ran through the garden, and over the justice's wall, and so to the great house to tell madam P— of his being at our house.

Court. Pray what reason had you for going to tell Mrs. P— this?

J—G—. Because I knew that there was an uneasiness in the family about Mr. Parry.

Court. Proceed.

J—G—. I had not been at madam P—'s half a quarter of an hour before somebody knocked at the door; I opened it, and who should it be but Mr. Parry. He seemed to be in a great passion, and asked for madam, and was going towards the little parlour, where she and miss where, M— H—s went to stop him, upon which he struck at her, but missed her, and I received the blow,

which was with the * lash end of the whip upon one side of my face.

Court. Did you receive any damage by the blow that you say was given you with the lash of the whip?

J—G—d. No, an't please your worships, but I was terribly frighted.

Court. Mr. Parry, have you got any evidence of your side?

James Parry. I have not, Sir; and if I had, they would stand but a poor chance against the foregoing ones.

After the court had gone through with the evidences, Mrs. P——'s agents moved, that if the jurors brought me in guilty of what was laid to my charge, that their worships would lay a heavy fine upon me. My agent was more strenuous on my side, &c. By this time the jury unanimously agreed upon the verdict, which was, that I was guilty of the assault, but not of the forcible entry. Whereupon the worshipful gentlemen fined me a shilling, to the disappointment of honest P—M—, &c. One of the justices was for having the fine five shillings; whereupon his brother asked him, if he was crazy. "Did we not all, said he, fix the fine at a shilling; what are you always going from your word, &c." The other brother immediately retracted, and agreed with his brother and the rest of the bench.

* The two fellows swore that I struck her violently with the butt-end of my whip.

The

The freeholders, who were upon the jury, would not take the fees allotted them by law, being sensible of the baseness of my prosecution. But P— M— insisted upon half a guinea for impannelling the jurors. I told him I had the misfortune to lose three guineas that morning out of my pocket, by a fall from my horse; and that I would pay him in a short time, &c. But he mistook my meaning, not but that I was in his debt since the time he thrust his whip in my face at Newport.

One thing I had like to have omitted in the trial at Caerleon, Mr. D—'s moved, that the forcible entry, which I was then to be tried for, had been removed by Certiorari into the King's-Bench. P— M— had the consummate impudence to say, that the indictments never were removed, notwithstanding I had, as I observed before, been served with four copies of the writs, whilst a prisoner in Monmouth, and I was to blame that I had not taken the copies down with me, but as the affair turned out, it was of no great signification.

In a day or two afterwards, one of Mrs. P—'s chief advisers met me in Monmouth, and told me, he found that a little would not frighten me, and that she had missed of what was aimed at. "The intent, added he, of so many indictments was intended as an occasion for your leaving this country; she now finds thou art not to be daunted,

and

and what I have done was for my client, and if I had been employed by you, I would have done all in my power to have served you. And whatever pains I have been at, I have been as amply paid as if I had been a counsellor."

Before I proceed any farther, I shall not think it improper to give some account of my quondam mistress. During the time of my imprisonment, she went to pay a visit to Mrs. —— the lady whom the summer before, she hindered me to wait upon (see letter, No. 56.) that lady consequently was very much surprised at the visit, and hardly ever returned it. And when she came to see a lady, who is a very material evidence of my side; she told her, that she was shockingly surprised at Parthenissa's impudence in coming to see her after the rumour was spread concerning her and myself. I confess I could not forbear laughing when I heard it, but I allow Mrs. —— to be a gentlewoman of far more honour and integrity than the other.

About this time I was credibly informed by a neighbour of Mrs. P——'s, that Mrs. J——ys proposed to Mrs. P——, a match between her son and Parthenissa, but the proposal was rejected by mother and daughter, which made master Dicky look as dismal as the knight of the sorrowful face. Soon after there were two more that offered themselves as suitors, the one a piece of an attorney,

attorney, the other an apothecary, both of the same name, which is M—n. She is as proper a woman for the latter as any I know, being well versed in Culpepper's midwifery, Aristotle's Legacy, Master-Piece, &c. or else, I should have had an undeniable witness of my virility. Therefore, in one respect, I am fully satisfied, she has thrice more crimes hereafter to answer for than I have.

It is obvious that she kept me in the country entirely for her pleasures. And what is most surprizing to me, is, that a girl should be so base after her mother had found us out, as to beg of me in her letters not to leave the country, but to stay month after month, which I foolishly did to a very bad purpose, by her jilting of me in a vile manner. She most certainly has lamed her reputation by her so doing, and debarred me of a good livelihood. And since she appeared against me at Newport, has for some time been as mad as a blind mare that has lost her foal, and ran into several extreams of lies. In fact it is not to be wondered at, after she had sworn in so perfidious a manner against me.

J—C— of the hill, Esq; who threatned me with the spiritual court, writs of de excommunicato capiendo, actions of ten thousands, &c. His courage went off like a flash in the pan. And I believe, nay I am credibly informed, that his family wish that he had never been concerned in an action that

I thought myself now out of their clutches, and that if Mrs. P— was so flush of money as to expend a considerable sum in law-suits against me for a trifle, she very well might have afforded to pay the money she owed me, for teaching her daughter. I begged of Mr. G— D— an attorney to write to her, which he immediately did, assuring her, he would prosecute her, if I had not satisfaction made me. Mrs. P— received his letter, and instead of returning him an answer, sent one to Mr. P— D— of Wilton near Ross, who is eldest brother to Mr. G—. She intended this letter as a piece of policy, thinking (as I taught that gentleman's daughter the spinnet) thereby to make him form as bad an opinion of me, as she had formerly imbibed into Mr. C—, &c. Her letter was couched up with nothing but invectives, and ran to the following effect. "She was very sorry that a man of his seeming virtue should take the part of one who had been so remarkable for the foulness of his tongue for a twelvemonth past. And that if I thought myself abused by him or his family, I should not value saying or swearing as much of them as I had done of her virtuous daughter. That I was a fellow of low life, and that it was more charity to give me a meal than common beggars; that I had owned I must have starved in the streets

streets if it had not been for her, and what I had eaten for the last three years in her house stood her in two guineas a quarter. That it would be hard upon her to pay me such an extravagant sum as I demanded, after I had lived upon her so long. Bid him, continued she, ask his own conscience, why he asked me for such small sums if he thought me indebted to him. I bid my maid tell him not to teach my daughter years ago; she learnt formerly of Mr. A—ey, and he had a great many scholars. But it was my misfortune to employ that fellow, who was called the Welch Boy. But let him consider, that the many wrongs he has done the fatherless and the widow will be one day accounted for. I am yours, with respects to your family.

E—P—."

Mrs. P— sent the letter inclosed in one to Mr. H—s, an attorney, who gave it Mr. D— telling him, ‘that if I sued Mrs. P—, she was ready to give bail. Mr. D— was surprized at the receipt of the letter, he never having sent her one, and the first time he saw me (for I was in Worcestershire when it came) he gave it me; which letter I lost accidentally soon afterwards in Wales.

Mr. D— having a just sense of the hardships I had undergone upon Parthenissa's account, was so far from discouraging me, contrary to Mrs. P— expectations, that he shewed me, if possible, more civility than he had done before; by entertaining me in his

his house for several months more like a brother than a stranger, &c. I wish for nothing more than to be able to requite him for his uncommon friendship; and several other gentlemen, who so kindly assisted me in my necessities.

I was dubious whether I should return Mrs. P— a civil answer to her mean-stiled letter or not. But to let her see I was ashamed of writing in a scurrilous manner, after so much ill usage, I sent her one, (see letter, No 57.) This she never had the good nature nor honour to answer, which indeed I imputed to her muddling herself with tobacco, with which she makes herself so nasty, that sometimes I have seen her like a dust-cart woman; and, in short, that was the reason of her leading so disagreeable a life in her husband's time. I have myself heard her say that he has washed her hands, and to my knowledge her daughter has taken snuff to avoid the mother's strong smell.

I plagued Mrs. P— sufficiently this winter by sending her letters directed by strange hands, so that she was dubious of taking others in least they should be mine, for I had them directed even from London. But in the beginning of December, happening to be at Grismond, I crossed over to Lantilio, and alighted at the publick-house. " Well J—, says I, I thank you for the prosecution you honoured me with." " G— d— the justice (meaning M— P—) and madam, and

and miss, and you too (said J—) for giving us all the trouble we have had. But indeed Mr. Parry what we did we were obliged to do." I replyed, Well J—, God forgive you all, for I do. So after regaling myself I made towards Dingestow. Mrs. P— heard, though my stay was not above an hour, that I was in the neighbourhood, upon which the doors were barricaded, least I should pay her, &c. a second visit.

There was one W— E—ds, a bailiff, father to the boy that was evidence against me, who lived in the same parish; that fellow had insulted me whilst I was a prisoner in Monmouth, upon Parthenissa's account. But when I was at liberty, and happened to meet him, he was seized with a shivering, being apprehensive that I should have used him according to his deserts; but being but a shrimp of a man I took no notice of him. But to be even with him, I often sent him some old writs or other pieces of parchment inclosed in a letter, for which he was obliged to pay double. However, his house lying on the road-side from Lantilio to Dingestow, I stopt at the door and called for a pint of ale. The minute he saw me he came running towards me, d—g me, and calling me all the vile names he could think of, for putting him to such expences for letters. With that he took hold of my horse's reins, and strove to unhorse me, at that I took him by the gullet and squeezed him till he was black

black in the face. I disengaged myself front him, but he would not quit my reins, and called aloud for his son, bidding him knock me off my horse with the hunting-pole. The son did his endeavour to obey his father's commands, by giving me a severe blow upon the back part of my head. The father still holding my horse fast, I could think of no way to get shift of them, but by putting my hand in my side-pocket, and taking out an inkhorn, making them believe it was a pistol. "Now you dog," said I, "say your prayers, for d—n you, you have not an hour to live." The fellow was scared out of his wits, so quitted my bridle, and whilst I pretended to cock my inkhorn, the son got between his father and me, in order to push him into the house. I had now a fair opportunity of revenging the blow given me. With that I stood upright upon my stirrups, and with all the free will imaginable, I knocked him down; where I left him sprawling and bleeding, crying out murther, &c. The old fellow shut the door, fearful of being shot. And I left the young one telling him we were even.

In the beginning of 1737, I wrote these Memoirs, and diverted myself with plaguing Mrs. P—. As for miss, she went hardly abroad, fearful of my catching a scent of her. Mrs. P— understanding that I lived in the utmost tranquility, was resolved to dislogde me, if possible. She called a council,

council, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. J—ys, Phil. M—n, and some others, to consult how to give me farther trouble. One wiser than the rest (whom I take to be Mr. C—yd of Monmouth) told them, the only way would be to send for an order from London, to have me taken up with a sheriff's warrant, for not putting in my appearance in the King's Bench, to the two indictments that were found against me, which they had removed by Certiorari. Now (thought they) we have him snug. But the affair was not carried on with so much secrecy, as to hinder me from having notice of it, which was given me six days before the Herefordshire writ was issued out, by a letter directed to an innkeeper in Ross. Upon Friday the 20th of May, I saw a sheriff's officer stand at the post-office door. I went up to him, and said, B—n, hast thou got any action, &c. against me? he replied, I have, master, a warrant against you; why the devil would you come near me? I would not have stirred an inch after you, because I know the affair. However, you now must go to hereford, and give in bail for your appearance above. Mr. D—s, the under-sheriff, will do any thing to oblige you, upon Mr. D—s of Wilton's account. I knew the fellow, as most of his vocation, to be a rogue; and was thoroughly satisfied, that it was by far more agreeable to hear the birds sing, than the mice cry, which made me resolve upon giving

giving him the go bye. Well, says I, let's call at Mr. D—s's, and I will get a letter from him to the under-sheriff. Accordingly, we went to Wilton. The family being at prayers, B——n and I took a walk in the garden. I brought him to a pear-tree, next the hall door, and bad him view the beauties of those pears, whilst I went for a tankard of cyder, as he imagined. I called out, Betty, Betty, bring a tankard of the red pear. The girl was a mile off, and I stepped into the hall, and gently bolted Mr. B——n in the garden, whilst I took sanctuary in a remote part of the house. In two or three minutes he bethought himself of the trick, and knocked at the hall door, which was opened by Mrs. R—, sister to Mrs. D—s. Where (quoth B——on) is Master Parry? I fancy he is gone to Ross (replied she) for I have seen him go in a hurry over the bridge, &c. The fellow found it in vain to trifle any more time away, for the writ was returnable next day, and away he trudged for Hereford. I begged of a sincere friend to write to Mr. R—F—r, of Lions-Inn, to enter an appearance for me in the King's Bench, which was immediately done. I once more had the pleasure of fretting Mrs. P——'s gizzard; and as for Phil. M——n, in one point I can not blame him, because it was his business, and he may not have such another client, as long as he lives. And this must in justice be said of him, no man in

England

LIFE OF JAMES PARRY. 71

England has a better method of enlarging a bill, and if Mr. P— or Mrs. P— should pretend to tax his bill (which must be well nigh as long as lady Wronghead's in the Journey to London) he will call them W— and R—, and swear they are worse than I really describe them to be.

The beginning of July I determined to make Worcester in my way to London. In my way thither, I spent a week with the reverend Mr. R—, rector of Redmarley; from thence to Worcester, where I staid some weeks, after taking a ride to see Birmingham, of which place once I was in hopes of being made organist. During my stay at Worcester, that compleat tradesman, Mr. W—m W—re, used me with an uncommon civility, his house was my home, and he made me several handsome presents.

A particular acquaintance of his, who is a Woollendraper in Broad-street, insisted upon my dining with him, in company with his partner's wife. I accepted of the invitation, and whilst we were at dinner the lady asked me (hearing that I came from Ross) if I knew one Parry an organist? I answered in the affirmative. Pray, sir, said she, what sort of a man is he? he is, replied I, about my size, and a little above twenty three years old. (I pressed the gentleman's foot not to discover me all the time.) Miss H— has told me, said she, and several others, that he is the vilest villain breathing, and to
be

be sure he must be so for degrading Parthenissa, who is one of the modestest and most virtuous young ladies living. I assure you, madam, replied I, there is no one knows Parry better than myself; I am his intimate companion, and know the very secrets of his soul. To my certain knowledge he has had carnal knowledge of her times innumerable, and she made him several overtures of love before ever his ambition reached to the height of embracing her. In fact, madam, she is a vile, perfidious jilt, and how miss H— takes upon her to vilify a man that is utterly a stranger to her, and never did her any injury, I am really at a loss to determine; but thus far I am satisfied, was my friend Parry to have an interview with her and miss J—y C—ke; he would satisfy her, through reasons he could give the latter, that Parthenissa really is what he calls her, viz. A perjured jilt. If Parthenissa, replied the lady, is really what you say, she is very much to blame; but miss H— spake it publickly, and said farther, that miss M—y C—ke assured her of it at Mr: Af—y's in the Foregate-street. After we had ended the subject, I went into the yard, and at my return I met the lady coming blushing out of the parlour, who turned her face from me; for it seems the gentleman had told her I was the very Parry whom she had railed against from the information of Miss H—e. I told Mr. H.

that

that I was sorry he let her into the secret, tho' my expressions were strong enough to let her see that I was the person. Tush, says he, do not mind it; Women are but women. I informed Mr. W—re of this, and assured him I would write to miss H—e that very day. But he conjured me not to do it, as I tendered his friendship. I laid aside the thought at his request; but if I had written to her, I would have given her a surfeit from meddling in affairs that did no way concern her, by giving some account of herself and a clergyman of the church of England.

On the twenty second of July Mr. W—re went for Bristol fair, and I was to have gone next morning to London, but a letter from Mr. Geo. D—s assured, that as soon as Mr. R—d F—r had entered my appearance, Mrs. P—'s agents had joined issue, and the record was come down for a trial at Monmouth, for an assault upon Mary H—ns, and a forcible entry, as I have before mentioned. I laid my London journey aside, and came down in a wherry from Worcester to Gloucester. There were sixteen passengers, mostly women, going to Bristol fair, and I do not know that in the whole course of my life I spent among strangers a day more agreeably. I passed for a native of Sweden (no one knowing to the contrary but a servant of Mr. W—re's) and highly diverted the women, by telling them a heap

of rhodomontades in broken English, for which they requited me with as much white-wine and naple-biskets as I could well tell what to do with. When I came to Gloucester, I providentially got acquainted with signior Claudio Roijer, a celebrated Italian master, who has proved himself, since my being in London, to be one of the sincerest, and the most benevolent friends that a person would desire to be blest with. I went with him to Monmouth (the assizes drawing nigh) which gave a surprize to Mrs. P—'s family, every one imagining me to be in London. Mrs. P— and miss kept their chambers for four days before the assize, being conscious of their villainy, and fearful of a subpoena against me, and left the evidences to make good, at the hazard of their souls, what the attorney should dictate for them. The cause was tried at the Nisi Prius bar, serjeant S—er (Mr. baron C—ns being ill in London) sitting as judge. My council were H—y W—y, Esq; and Mr. serjeant Bi—h. Mrs. P—'s were counsellor T—or, C—e, H—gs and K—by. Mr. K—by had been fee'd by me some time before, but upon P—l M—n's telling him I was not in town, &c. he took a fee of two guineas from him to plead against me. Mr. H—gs, being king's council, opened vehemently against me; he had a good wig on, and well combed, but his speech was rather loud than learned. C—ve seconded as well as his capacity

capacity would allow him. Mr. T—r examined the witnesses, and Mr. K—by did me no damage.

I cannot help observing one piece of artifice (which is really strange) of P—l M—n's. He gave a particular charge to the witnesses not to mention a word concerning what I had said of Parthenissa, which advice was punctually observed.

The first witness called was J—e Gr—od, who deposed, that I knocked at the door, and the moment the latch was open, I thrust in, and was forcing my way through the kitchen towards the parlour, where madam and Parthenissa were; and that M—y H—ns went to hinder me from going there, upon which I struck her with my fist a hard blow in the face.*

The court asked her, if ever she had seen me at Mrs. P—'s before. She said, yes. But she remembered one time in particular, that Pen P— came to her house; and desired me to go to Dingestow, because miss was very uneasy at my being at † Lan—o.

The next evidence that was called was M—y H—ns, who deposed, that as soon as

* This woman swore at Caerleon, that I struck at M—y H—ns with my whip, but she received the blow with the lash end, upon the side of her face.

† That was the time that Mr. J—L— came down with M— P—, in 1735. when I made her believe that I would come to her brother, and own that I was the person who wrote the letter concerning Mr. R—J—, who is since dead, and was buried in Georgia.

I came into the kitchen, I was making my way towards the little parlour, and upon her stopping of me, I gave her a smart blow on the face, and that she thought I had struck her teeth down her throat; but owned, that she did not bleed inwardly nor outwardly.

The court asked her, what I came there for? she answered, that I said for my wife. Upon which counsellor T—r told the court, that as he imagined me to be a fellow that played upon a jews-harp from house to house, I might court the scullion wench, that belonged to the family. I happened to be by him (as well dressed as himself) and clapped my hand to one side of my face, and spake in his hearing, viz. if T—r had not spoken that shallow speech, which I own to be his chief talent, his brains must have come out.

The last evidence that was called, was W—m Ed—ds, jun. he (being exasperated at the blow I gave him the time I had been last at Lan—o, was resolved to deviate from the evidence he gave against me at Caerleon) deposed, that as soon as the door was opened to me, I rushed into the kitchen, with a sword drawn, two pistols cocked, and a jockey horlewhip in my * hand; that I assaulted M—y H—ns in the

* That V—n evidently perjured himself, because M—
M—n, the constable, and several others can testify, that
when the constable assaulted me, and searched me, I had no
other arms but my cutteau and horlewhip about me.

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manner mentioned before, by the two foregoing witnesses.

My council spake in their turn, shewing the impossibility of my carrying two pistols cocked, a drawn sword, &c. at the same time, the incoherency of the evidence given against me; and I found myself much to blame, in not having the verdict given against me at Caerleon for one and the same forcible entry recorded.

The council for the plaintiff, particularly Mr. H——ngs, closed the pleadings, and the Oxford Member summed up the evidence; whereupon the jury agreed upon their verdict, and brought me in guilty of the assault, but not of the forcible entry.

The unjust J— was exasperated at them, looking like a fiery meteor, frightned the harmless Welchmen, made them lay their heads together once more, &c. who brought me at last in guilty of both. But how did it end? at their cost. My friends deposited no more than court fees and issue-money, as you will find hereafter.

Immediately after the court arose, one of Mr. P—'s neighbours told me, he was sorry for me, for that J—e, Will. Ed—ds, and M—y H—ns, had sworn heartily against me; but, added he, if the two former did not swear as they were directed, they must have starved, or left the country. Let them swear on and be d—n'd, said I, sooner than

than I will expend a farthing upon the verdict I will lie in prison seven years.

I consulted an eminent counsellor, before the judges left Monmouth, in what manner I should obtain the money due to me from Mrs. P—. He asked me if I had any promissary note, &c. from her, I answered him in the negative, and that I had no witness to our bargain but her daughter. The advice I give you, said he, is to commence no action against Mrs. P—; for in the first place you have nothing to shew for your debt; and secondly, you have no evidence but the young lady, who irrevocably has lost her reputation; and in all appearance has already sworn a vile falsehood against you. And if once a person perjures herself before a justice or bench, that person will not value swearing forty times as much more before a superior court. My sincere advice, continued he, is to retain no thought of her; you are very young, and undoubtedly may get a livelyhood in some other part of the kingdom.

But, alaſſ! my fond heart doats upon her still; and my endeavouring to drown my love in wine and with women, is like throwing oil upon the fire. Very often and even at this season (July 1739.) I am drowned in tears, and burn in love like a ship set on fire in the midst of the ocean. A feeble mind is no sooner seized with this fear, but hatred finds a place also; and love not yet being

being entirely banished, strange disorders happen by such opposite passions; and the soul's not being destroyed, is to be attributed to the number of its enemies. On one hand, hatred freezes the heart (the principal seat of the soul); stifles the spirits, and extinguishes the natural heat. On the other hand, love burns it; and by dilating its small cavities, encreases its spirit and heat. Poor heart! how dost thou suffer by this monstrous passion! anger, grief, and perfidiousness, are derived from these contrary passions; as also hope, despair, joy, sadness, fury, rage, and lastly, desire to be revenged, even to the hazard of life and reputation.

But it seems, that to be jilted by a woman is no new thing among men. Solomon, the wisest of our sex, who knew women better than we, compares them to the wind, and speaks much to the purpose, in saying, " That he that has a woman in his possession, and endeavours to keep her to himself, is like him that retains the wind with his arms." Alas! by a woful experience I have found his words to be too true. Indeed, women are naturally very fickle, and easily carried by small and frivolous matters, through the weakness of their judgment. They delight in trifles, and spend all their life-time in giving proofs of the inconstancy of their sex. Their stature is generally small, or sometimes otherwise; their strength indifferent; their actions languishing. In

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one word, they are weaker, and more in-
constant than men.

I cannot pass by one thing, in justice to Mrs. P—, notwithstanding her base usage towards me. In the country, and since in London, several gentlemen have intimated to me, that they verily believed that I have gone through the family, i. e. that I have lain with the mother, daughter, and the servant. As for the servant, I have actually had her in my power, but thought her disagreeable, by which she escaped me. The account given me by Parthenissa of her mother, you have seen in these memoirs; and I take heaven to witness, that I never had an amorous thought of her.

It is said, that honesty is the best policy; but had it been possible for me to have known then, what I have known since, I would have made policy the best honesty.

If she was pleased with any man's aspect, during the time of her abode in Ross, it was with one P—ps, an Irish dragoon, of captain Whiteford's troop in lord Cadogan's regiment. I have heard her often talk feelingly of him; and, to my knowledge, she has often gone from church, to a chandler's shop opposite the post-office (his quarters) and gazed upon him for half an hour at a time. For my part, I know of no reason why I should not be as free in my sentiments as the rest of my neighbours, in saying, that I harbour no better an opinion of middle-aged

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aged women, old ones, and young ones, who daily frequent the church, than those who stay at home. I own that love makes women indiscreet; but those that pass for the most chaste, have often no less flame, for being more reserved than others. That woman is chaste, which may be never was asked the question (a case parallel to several in Ross) for if you examine strictly those that pass for the most virtuous, perhaps they will be found as criminal as the rest, and but few modest, &c. among them.

The Ephesian matron, whose history Petronius makes Seneca agreeably relate, being the admiration of all the neighbouring provinces, by reason of her chastity, yielded at last to a common soldier.

But to my own affair. After Monmouth assizes ended, it was the opinion of Mrs. P—'s agents, that I would not appear at Westminster to receive judgment. By my neglect they would further have plagued me. I stayed there till the horse-race was over, and upon the 20th of October I came to London. The first thing I did, was to visit my generous friend Mr. J— P—, who shewed me several marks of his friendship afterwards. It is to be imagined I was not overstocked with money at my arrival here; but providence directed me to the house of Mr. J— B—n, a vintner in Fleet-street. I was entirely a stranger to him, but yet he has had so good an opinion of me, that he

D 5 has

has supplyed me with money and every necessary for a great many months, and only upon my word! and may heaven renounce me, if he ever loses any thing by me, the hour that it is in my power to requite him. The generosity of signior C—R— shall never be forgotten by me. That gentleman, at no small expence, took me to all the remarkable and delightful places in and about town, and what little money I have got here, has been through his regard for me.

I waited upon Mr. serjeant B—h and Humphrey W—y Esq; to know in what manner I was to behave in relation to my law affair. The latter particularly advised me to be in the hall, and answer if I should be called, assuring me at the same time that he was fully satisfyed, that he could have the judgment reversed. I waited several days at Westminster-Hall that term and the Hilary term following, but my name was never mentioned. I left word with Mr. W—d clerk in court, where I was to be met with if at any time I should be called. But I never heard any more of the matter, which shewed me how conscious M— P—, and Mrs. P— were of their unjust proceedings against me.

It may not be improper to give some account of Parthenissa, during the space of three years. After she had jilted me, &c. she made a fool of Dick J—ys. The next that

that shared the same fate (as I am informed) was an apothecary in Abergavenny. Who should follow him but an attorney, who was a manager in the prosecution against me, viz. P— M—, junior of Usk. The next that attacked her was Mr. W— B—y, a young gentleman who received some damage in his infancy, through the carelessness of his nurse ; but a great objection happened, which was, his name sounded very much like mine. After him there came one Mr. L—I, with two servants in livery. She played with him about six weeks, laughed at him ; and gave him the go-by ; upon which he declared that he believed every word of mine to be true. This plainly shews that money makes the mare to go. The person who followed Mr. L— was a L— and a near relation of lord A——y's. He thought that no beauty could withstand a soldier's brandishing, or an orator's rhetoric, but he shared the fortune of those that went before him, and finds he is no more than mortal.

In autumn 1738. J— C— of the hill, and M— P— Esqrs. departed this life. I could very well have spared a couple more. In January following I writ Parthenissa a letter (see letter, No. 58) there's enough now would be glad to marry her merely for the sake of her fortune. The first that attacked her this year was Mr. H— H—, son to sir H—. He swore he would have her right or wrong ; but he blustered his breath

away to no purpose. As soon as I heard it, I writ to sir H— at Hampstead, and at the same time to Parthenissa in the country, which letter, in fact, is not fit to be communicated to the publick, least it should teach the young girls, if possible, more mischief than they already know. In June last (1739) Mr. F— L—, a young gentleman of fortune in that county went to make his address to her, which occasioned a great deal of mirth. When he first came there she was gone to Abergavenny; so Mr. L— paid his compliments to a young gentlewoman that was there as miss's companion. But the young gentleman's mother (who is head of the Beau Monde in that country) thought to salve up that mistake by going herself to Parthenissa, and propose the match. "Madam, says Mrs. P—, my daughter is already an unhappy woman, and if she follows my advice she will never marry, but if she should alter her condition, I have engaged my interest for another."

It is intimated to me that this person is no other than Mr. J— L—, attorney. He has been down there these ten months on pretence of settling her affairs. But every one guesses at his stay, and if sanctity can prevail upon her, he must be the man, and i' faith well-matched they will be; for she looks as innocent as an angel, though at the same time, I know her to be worse than a devil incarnate, and as lecherous as ever Pompiæ or Messalina.

Jina were, who could away with the embraces of above twenty men in a day and night, which they themselves have bragged of, if we believe history.

A gentleman of my acquaintance informed me that he was in company with Mr. L—'s brother, who is an apothecary (who, to my knowledge, is a meer pedantic solemn coxcomb) and talking about the marriage between the attorney and my mistress, what an unhappy life they consequently must lead, that I should be a thorn in their sides, &c. the glister merchant had the impudence to assert, that I hardly ever saw her, and that if it had not been out of Mrs. P—'s mere compassion and generosity in sending me victuals, and discharging me from prison, I must inevitably have perished there.

1739. In August last the rev. Mr. W— had the vanity to introduce Mr. W—, a haberdasher to Parthenissa. The friends of Mr. W— blame him much for it, and I am fully satisfied Mr. W— will come home without his errand. My intelligence from the country is pretty good, and the hour I heard of Mr. W—'s Journey, I waited upon his sister, who is an agreeable well-behaved young gentlewoman. I laid the whole matter before her, and to convince her of my sincerity, I gave her the liberty of perusing these memoirs, which she gratefully returned, and soon gave her brother some account of his new acquaintance.

It is a thing impossible for any one to guess at the emotions of my heart, whilst I am writing these things. I confess, and not without many sighs, that where there has been an entire love, and the embers of it left, the soul keeps loving ideas of the absent object, and receives abundance of satisfaction, when the beloved person is mentioned. But sometimes, lies and impostures slide in with true reports, that the soul is misled into mistrust by suspicious conjectures, and doubts of its own forging.

Res est solliciti plena timoris Amor.

By what I have already said, it is too apparent, that Parthenissa has ruined me. I sacrificed my time, and every pleasure that youths are fond of, to please her; she has often told me, I had no occasion to make a practice of music, so as to get a future livelihood by it; for that she had fortune enough to maintain us both. I foolishly adhered to what she said, and intirely neglected my practice in that science. And what was yet more shocking, she hindered me from going to places, where, in all probability, I might have got a tolerable livelihood; especially at a time when I had discharged my debts, and had money, &c. by me. But to keep me in the country, till I had wasted my small substance; to jilt me in so scandalous a manner; and, after all, to have me so unjustly imprisoned!

imprisoned! was such an uncommon provocation, that I believe no one breathing would be silent upon.

We engaged so firmly together, that I believe no passion equalled ours. We loved with such violence, that it seemed as if a spell had been laid upon us. For years (to my thinking) we were as happy as could be wished for; and had she not been of so vile a disposition, we certainly might have been so to this day. Enjoyment was so far from palling my desires, that it rather increased them. We lived in all the delights of love, and gave ourselves up so intirely to it, that we thought of nothing but each other. If any intruding thought crept in, we would immediately lull it to rest, like a froward child.

Upon the 8th of October, 1735, when we parted, it was with such a regret, that it foreboded our eternal separation; and had it not been the series of my misfortunes to get the mastery of my passion, I never should have understood the force of it. But I must own, if I had foreseen the fatigue and hazard of this unhappy amour, I believe that I never should have ventured upon her; because I am verily preswaded, that I could much better have supported ingratitude itself, though ever so foul and odious, than the deadly! deadly! thought of our irrevocable separation! I positively affirm, that it was not only her person that was so dear to me,

but

but the steadiness of my unalterable affection. My soul is often strongly divided! her perfidiousness makes me abhor her, and yet, at the same time, my love, obstinate and invincible, will not let me think of any thing else; but, contrariwise, her lovely idea is always before me. I always thought her, nay still do, the most charming of her sex. She often was jealous, without any just occasion, which sometimes made me almost desperate with her, for her unjust suspicions. Sometimes it signified nothing to humour her in her weakness, or constrain myself from looking any pretty woman in the face. Her mistrust was so ingenious, as to render my constraint useless.

Thus have I given a true and an impartial account of this amour; wherein the reader may observe, that I no way have hid my own faults, but, on the contrary, have fully exposed them: and if Mrs. P— had acted the part of a prudent woman, she would have tried, as she was unwilling that I should become her son-in-law, to have kept (especially as she found her daughter and myself in an indecent posture) what had past between us a secret, instead of babbling it to that fiend Mrs. J—ys. But nothing, excepting my ruin, would allay her revenge; though at the same time (together with miss's giving me up) she only was the ruin of her daughter's character, which might have been sacred to this day, had I not been so barbarously

barously used. I therefore infer from her management, that the reader will join with me in saying, she did not act the part of (what she would in vain be thought) a discreet woman.

But before I put an end to these memoirs, thinking myself happily acquitted and discharged from Parthenissa, I shall finish the whole with a word of seasonable advice to my (once) intended spouse. As she is a woman of an insatiable, a brutish, and carnal appetite, that cannot be satisfied by any of that species whom God ordained and created for the comfort and solace of their sex, I would recommend to her the experiment of Pasiphae, the ingenious and renowned queen of Crete.

I have somewhere read, that neither her poor husband Minos, nor any of his courtiers, being able to give her that benevolence, which she eagerly expected from them; and being uneasy, and perpetually tormented in her mind, at her loss and disappointment, she came to a full resolution, at once to apply herself to the most renowned mechanic of that island, the famous Dedalus, to invent some contrivance, if betwixt them both they could find any experiment to take off her pain, and to appease that devil incarnate in her.

The thing had its desired success. A cow was contrived betwixt them both, so artificially, as even to deceive the lord of that

brute

brute creation. When that same is the object of their desires, what will not a woman do to obtain her wishes?

The queen eagerly ascends the ladder, goes into the cow, and places her part ingeniously to the hole; the vigorous bull, the lusty lawless libertine, acquitted himself like a beast of courage, and gave the longing queen perfect satisfaction; if such insatiable queens may be said to be satisfied. The story continues to tell us, from the happy enjoyment betwixt both, they begot that noble and terrible creature, the Minotaur.

To apply the story to Parthenissa. I know the indulgence (at present) of her mamma, and that she will **spare** no cost or pains to sooth and gratify miss in her pleasures; the same experiment is easily to be made, and many a bull to be had in the parish, beside the parson's: and as I know her passions to be as strong and insatiable as the lascivious queen of Crete's; so, in the most exquisite degree of pleasure that woman ever felt, betwixt them both they may beget another chopping lovely Minotaur.

I was advised by several gentlemen, &c. to publish these memoirs by subscription; which if I had done, it would have brought a considerable sum into my pocket. What I have done is no way for profit, but to do justice to myself and relations, who have been (if I may use the expression) hit in the teeth,

teeth, concerning my being a prisoner in Monmouth goal.

It is to be imagined, that I am not insensible of my drawing the malevolence of a great many people upon me, by writing these memoirs, especially the fair sex; but being already acquainted with their malice, I value them the less; for an injured mind thinks nothing unjust that is natural.

I can fall no lower than the earth, and whoever thrusts me down sooner than nature intends, must follow me (perhaps) sooner than they will be willing.

I have before observed, that through the tenor of these memoirs I have kept a steady regard to truth, nothing lessening or extenuating from my own imprudent conduct and behaviour, through a short space and series of life. The courteous reader must consider me, as one brought up in a science the most agreeable and entertaining, and which withal exposes a man many times to a variety of company, whereby he is frequently exposed to the temptations of some vices, which he might otherwise have avoided: and if he considers the incitements of youth on one hand, and the blandishments and allurements of the fair on the other, especially where the passion is kindled into love, he cannot but, in some measure, put a favourable construction on my past conduct: if he condemns me, I am before hand with him, because I have condemned myself already;

and

and having now taken a full resolution never more to be seduced by the faithless sex, I can now bid farewell to the amorous decoy, having been sufficiently punished, and had a woeful experience of the unhappy effects of it. And I am further perswaded, that I have furnished the reader with a very necessary and useful lesson, that misguided youth may take warning from my unhappy circumstances. For,

“ By such Examples we are taught to prove
The Sorrows that attend unlawful Love.”

And, as the same poet still very wisely observes, a good character once lost, is with the utmost hazard and difficulty ever after to be recovered, for generally

“ Ruin ensues, Reproach and endless Shame,
And one false Step entirely damns our Fame.”

Warned by my example, others may shun the snare ; bearing always in remembrance this useful lesson, That unlawful Love must expect to meet with unhappy Consequences.

Before I put the finishing stroke to these memoirs, I intend to trouble the reader with a small detail concerning myself in London, and what has given my acquaintance an opportunity

opportunity of mentioning my name frequently.

I happened to be in company with a clergyman, physician, an attorney, and a gentleman (in May 1739) at a tavern near Temple-Bar. They insisted upon my going with them to Old-Man's coffee-house near Charing-Cross; notwithstanding it was late, and no coach to be had, I complyed with their request; and to facilitate our walk, I gave a link-boy six-pence for his link, and in going by Exeter-Exchange, a fellow met the foremost of our company, and struck him over the arm; at which I advanced, and struck him with my lighted torch over the face, upon which he fell and was disabled for a week or upwards.

He found me out, by my having on a laced waistcoat, and had a warrant from Sir W—B—, by virtue of which he carried me before M—P—, Esq; the then L—d—M—r, who committed me to the Poultry Compter.

I applyed to the gentleman whom I had vindicated for relief, but he ungenerously told me, if I had killed the man, it was no business of his. Upon which Mr. Pr—rd, clerk to Mr. T—V—n, of the Temple, generously relieved me out of my stone-doublet, and engaged his master to prosecute Parthenissa, in an action of a breach of marriage contract. He undertook it, and kept the letters between us, till I saw in the Daily Post,

Post, that she was married to J— L—, Esq; of L— I—n; upon which I ran to Mr. V—n, and informed him of the marriage. He than told me (after having kept my letters three months) that I was a stranger to him, and that I could not expect that he should proceed against my Quondam mistress, unless I brought him a purse of an 100 or 50 guineas at least. So this affair, so much talked of, was dropt, to my disadvantage, and to his no great credit.

In the beginning of January 1739-40, it was inserted in most of the London news papers, that I was drowned by skating on the ice in St. James's park; but providence, I thank it, spared me.

The winter following sir Claudio recommended me to Mr. Rich, master of Covent-Garden playhouse, where I continued during the long run of his grand entertainment, *Orpheus and Euridice*.

I am now, May the 9th, made master of arms on board the *Revenge* privateer, capt. James Wimble, in order to sail upon a cruize against the Spaniards, and if the almighty should spare my life a few years longer, I hope to give my friends, &c. a farther account of myself.

A Jour-

A Journal of the Adventures of Mr. JAMES PARRY, on board of the Revenge privateer, Captain WIMBLE.

HAVING entered on board the Revenge privateer, capt. James Wimble commander, as master of arms, the 29th of May, 1741, who was going on a cruise against the Spaniards.

On the second of July we left the Hope, and the same day passed through the Downs, drums beating, trumpets sounding, and colours flying. At Deal we sat our agent ashore, and saluted him with seven guns; but a man of war lying in the Downs, returned the salute with five, thinking it was intended as a compliment to him.

The 3d of July we went into Hastings. Here the capt. went on shore to see some of his friends, whom he brought on board a short time after. While the company were on board making merry, the capt. discovered a sail, and ordered us to give her chace; we made all the sail we could, and, in about an hour, came up with her. We fired twice at her before she would bring too, which made us imagine she would prove a prize; but we afterwards found her to be a French fishing boat, with twenty-four hands on board. After examining her, and finding no fire-arms, or prohibited goods on board, we discharged her, not at that time being at War with France.

The

The 9th of July we saw three sail off the coast of France; we gave them chace, and, after some time, came up with two of them, they proved to be French vessels laden with salt. One of the captain's told our lieutenant, who was sent on board him, in order to search his vessel, that he had spoke with the third sail, which we saw to the leward; that she came from Malaga; and that she was laden with Spanish goods.

Upon this information we immediately gave her chace; and, though she made all the sail she could from us, yet in about three or four hours we came up with her, she being but an indifferent sailor. We fired four times at her, she made every thing ready to fight us, but seeing the number of our hands, (which were an hundred in all, though three parts of them were boys) she at length brought to. We brought the captain and mate on board our ship, and put twelve of our men on board theirs; one of which was the master, and our captain gave him orders to carry her into Plymouth.

When the mate of the ship we had taken came on board our ship, and saw how poorly we were mann'd, he said, had he known it before, the ship should not have been carried into Plymouth by us; upon which we imagined she would prove a good prize.

The tenth of July we got safe into Catwater, passed by the Hastings man of war in the Sound, and saluted the fort at ten o'clock

at night, but the salute was not returned, it being too late.

On the 11th of July Mr. William Warren, our second lieutenant, was sent express to London, in order to acquaint the owners with our success. He returned to Plymouth in about eight or ten days, and brought Mr. Parker, our chief agent, with him. When they came, our lieutenant told us, he was sure she would prove a good prize; in searching the ship we had taken, we found several things that were not in the bills of lading; particularly two casks of camphire, and while we staid at Plymouth, which was about three weeks, we searched the ship continually to see what we could find.

The agent brought with him from London about three hundred pounds, which he lent to those of the ship's company whom he judged most deserving, of which I had about two pounds.

While our ship lay at Plymouth I amused myself with viewing the place, and seeing some acquaintances that lived in the town, who were glad to see me, and gave me a hearty welcome while I remained there.

On going on board the ship I found one of our midshipmen (whose name I have forgot) was drowned in Catwater, in endeavouring to swim ashore; he was buried very decently in the New Church yard in Plymouth, and those of our men that made the best appearance, and which we were sure

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would not run away, attended at the funeral; every one had a pair of pistols stuck in his belt, a hanger by his side, and there were swords crossed on the coffin-lid.

While we lay at Catwater one Mr. Wyatt, our trumpeter, having some words with me, challenged me to fight him at small sword; I readily accepted the challenge, but the next day, when we were to have gone ashore, the small sword was objected against by some of the ship's company, as a weapon that did not belong to the ship; and therefore it was insisted, if we where resolved to fight, it should be with hanger and pistol, but Mr. Wyatt refused to fight me at those weapons. A few hours after this affair was over, I asked our captain, who was then going ashore, if I might go to Plymouth; he told me when the boat returned, which would be in about half an hour, I might go. On the boat's returning I went into her, but Mr. Wyatt ordered me to come back, pretending that the captain had left no orders for me to go, and ordered the centry, if I offered to put off the boat, to fire at me, he being the principal officer at that time on board.

I took the boat-hook and pushed off the boat, upon which, the centry not firing as Mr. Wyatt had commanded him, he took the musquet from him, and immediately fired at me, which went through one of the oars, and took off a piece of the

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rollock. Mr. Wyatt firing the musquet at me, so intimidated the men, that they were afraid to row; but being resolved to go ashore, as I had asked leave of the captain, I took up the oars and row'd myself.

When I came ashore, having found the captain, I acquainted him with what had happened, and he assured me I should have satisfaction. In a little time the captain came on board, and I with him; we immediately went to Mr. Wyatt's hammock, but finding him asleep and very drunk, the captain desired I would take no notice of it at that time; when he was up we taxed him with it, but he swore he knew nothing of it, and as he said he was heartily sorry for what we told him he had done, I assured him I freely forgave him, and I should concern myself no farther about it.

I observed before that I had about two pounds of our agent, with that money, and some I had of my own, I bought an hundred weight of biscuits, and some other things, which I afterwards sold to good advantage in the ship.

The 1st of August, the captain told us, he intended to sail as the next day, in search of a Spanish privateer that infested the channel. This was contrary to the inclinations of the men, who wanted to see their prize condemned, and to have their prize-money, before they set sail. At length they were prevailed on by the captain and agent

to go, under pretence that they should cruise but a few days, and then return again, though in fact they went for the whole voyage.

The 2d of August, 1741, we set sail from Plymouth, the wind at east, at night saw the Edistone Light-house.

The 3d of August, in the morning, we saw a sail to the south-east; we made all the sail we could after her, thinking it was the Spanish privateer we were in quest of; when we came pretty near her, they fired three shot at us, one of which went very near the end of our bowsprit, where the trumpeter stood sounding his trumpet. We fired at them again, and then they made a signal for our boat to come on board. Accordingly several of our men went on board, of which I was one, the captain having promised to encourage me, if I put myself forward, by reason the ship was so badly mann'd; after which I missed no opportunity of going with the boat. The ship proved to be the Hastings man of war, which we saw in Plymouth Sound. Our lieutenant was ordered into the cabin, to know why we fired at an English man of war; and the captain told him, he had a good mind to impress all our men for it, and send him back to Plymouth. The lieutenant replied, we did not know it was an English man of war, but took it for a Spanish privateer.

After

After the lieutenant had taken leave of the captain, we all got into our boat, and went to our own ship; our captain ordered us to hoist in the boat, and make sail. We immediately sailed under the stern of the Hastings, and gave her three cheers, which she returned. She sailed to the northward, and we to the westward, we cruised the channel two days afterwards, but met with nothing.

The 6th of August, we saw two sail; we gave them chase; they fired several shot at us from their stern chace, but we reserved ours, till we got up with them. When we came near them, and discovered they were English, we fired a gun to the leeward, to let them know we were friends. They brought to, and desired the captain would send his boat on board one of them, and they would make him a present of a cask of rum; we hoisted our boat out, and went on board, and the captain gave us the cask of rum. I asked him, if he would please to sell me four gallons for myself, which he kindly let me have, but refused to take my money for it. When the captain saw the trumpeter, who was next me, he said, pox take your trumpet, I was not afraid till I heard that, for then I took your ship for a Spanish privateer.

Before we came away, we asked him what the other ship was; he told us it was his comfort; upon which we returned him thanks,

and left him. They were two homeward bound West India ships, but their names I have forgot. When we came to our ship, we hoisted our boat in, and steered again to the westward.

The 7th of August we chose Mr. Bardriff to be agent for the ship's company. Nothing material happened for six or seven days (during which time we coasted the Spanish shore) except seeing a few French and Dutch vessels, and examining them; but as we were not at war with either of those nations, and they had no prohibited goods on board, we dismissed them.

The 15th of August in the morning, as we were cruising off Oporto, we saw two sail; we gave chase to one, and quickly came up with her. She proved to be a Dutch sloop from Faro, the captain of which informed us, that we had several English men of war lay there. He likewise informed us, that there was a Spanish privateer cruising off Cape St. Vincent, which mounted ten carriage, and six swivel guns, and carried sixty men. We then asked him, what the other vessel was which we saw, but he told us he did not know.

We left him, and immediately stood away for the other vessel; but it growing calm, and a fog arising, we lost sight of her. About two hours after we got sight of her again; we gave her chase, and, in a small time, came up with her. We hoisted out

our

our boat, went on board, and, to our great surprise, we found she had no hands on board. She had Swedish colours, and all her sails aboard. Our captain ordered Mr. Davis, the first lieutenant, and seven men, to go on board, and carry her to Cape Fare, in South-Carolina. That night we lost sight of her, and I never saw her any more, but heard she was brought into England.

The 16th of August we passed by the Borlings, and saw the rock of Lisbon. Our captain sent the boat ashore to one of the Borlings, where the garrison is kept, to desire leave to take in fresh water, but we were not able to obtain it; however, they gave us plenty of water-melons, and we purchased a great many fish, which are very plentiful, on account of some hundreds of fishing-boats, which go there to catch them for the city of Lisbon. After we had got what provisions we could, we came aboard in our boat, made sail, and saluted the garrison with five guns; they returned it with three, but one happened to have shot in it.

The 17th of August in the morning, we saw ten or twelve sail of large ships, between us and the land, going, as we thought, into Lisbon, which we took to be some English men of war. We endeavoured to come nearer shore; and, coming within two leagues of land, we discovered a sail, which we took to be the Spanish privateer the Dutch

captain informed us of. She was coming, as I imagined, towards Lisbon ; but seeing us, she tacked about, and stood to the southward, as there was but little wind stirring. We put out our oars, and gave her chace ; and, as soon as she perceived we got ground of her, she endeavoured to run ashore ; our captain ordered the boat out, and commanded us to make after her as fast as possible, in order to discover what she was. Mr. James Tinmouth, our master, commanded the boat ; we were seven in the boat besides himself ; and, in less than an hour, we came within musquet-shot of her. When we came first near her, we found she rowed with five oars on one side, and but two on the other. This made us suspect the more that this was the Spanish privateer we were searching after, of which we could not be certain, there not being wind enough to blow the colours open.

Our master told us, we were now come too near her to turn back ; for, says he, if we go back now, they will fire after us, and do us as much mischief, as if we go on, so we went under her stern, and she fired two swivel guns at us. We received no further damage, by their firing, than one of the balls splitting the blade of one of our oars.

After they had fired, our master stepped forward to the two blunderbusses that were placed in the bow of the boat, and said, my boys you shall not have all the play to yourselves,

selves, and so fired one at them, which broke the cabbin windows, and one of the balls broke the compass, which hung in the captain's cabbin: upon which one from over the stern called out, in the Portuguese language, we are Portuguese, keep off your boat. Our master answered in our language, we are English, and swore he would come on board. They then told us, if we were English, we were welcome to come on board, and directly brought to.

The Portuguese received us very kindly, and had got a cask of wine on the deck, for us to drink as much as we pleased, and being overjoyed to find we were English, for they took us for Algerine pyrates. The ship was laden with salt, from Cape Verd, but its name I have forgot.

Our ship came up in less than an hour, and we took our boat and went on board; our captain finding one of us missing, said, I hope none of you are hurt by the shot, where is Jones? for he saw the Portuguese fire at us. Our master answered, we are all safe but him, and he is dead at the bottom of the boat. As we came along side, our ship's company looked over the gunnel of the ship, and began to pity him, saying, he was the first man that had the misfortune to be killed.

They let down the tackle to hoist him in, and the man who took him in his arms to lay him on the deck, said, he was sure he

was not quite dead, for he could perceive he breathed. After he had laid him on the deck, he turned him over, to see where he was wounded, but our master coming over the ship's side, said, pox take him, don't trouble yourself any more about him ; it is the Portuguese wine, and not their balls, that has made him in this condition,—he is only dead drunk ; which made our ship's company laugh very heartily.

After we had put Jones into his hammock, our captain ordered us to take the boat, and fetch the Portuguese captain on board, which we accordingly did, and he made our captain a present of a cask of wine, who in return gave him a score of stock-fish, and about ten pounds of tobacco.

The Portuguese captain continued on board our ship till about six in the evening, and when he took his leave, we saluted each other with five guns.

This night came on a terrible storm of thunder and lightning, which very much frightened our young sailors, they having never been in a storm before.

The 18th of August we sailed round the Bay of Cadiz, but met with nothing material ; we stood away cross the Straights of Gibraltar, to the African shore, and off Cape Canton. Just at going down of the sun, we saw a sail ; about ten at night we fell in with her, we fired a gun, and made her bring to, we hoisted out our boat,
went

went aboard her, and found her to be a French Tartan, laden with copper from Santa Cruz, in Barbary; we kept her in custody all night, intending the next day to examine her cargo.

The next day being the 19th of August, we went to examine her, and found above forty persons on board, who were chiefly Jews and Moors; the Jews most of them spoke Spanish, which made our captain imagine they were Spaniards, trading in French bottoms; one in particular had several thousand Sequins on board (about nine shillings each). We took him and his chest, and brought them on board our ship, where we kept him several hours; at length we dismissed him, on his offering to leave something as his ransom, which however was to be returned him, provided he proved he belonged to the French.

The 20th of August in the morning, we went into Sophia Bay, where, seeing two sail, we ran in between them as they lay at anchor. They were Tartans, but the wind blowing very hard, we were afraid to let go our anchors, or hoist out our boat, the sea rose so high. We hailed them, and they told us they were French, laden with copper from Santa Cruz, in Barbary, and were bound for Marseilles.

This the Tartan we met with yesterday likewise told us, but we were afterwards informed, that these three Tartans had taken

the money out of the galleons that came into Santa Cruz, in the island of Teneriffe, which is one of the Canary islands, that we might justly have taken them, being really Spaniards, and that they only traded in French bottoms.

We stood off and on to sea two days more, but met with nothing material.

The 23d of August we anchored in the bay of Santa Cruz, in Barbary, within two leagues of the town.

The 24th of August a Moor's boat came off from the Barbary shore, with about fourteen or fifteen hands on board of her, she came almost within musquet shot of us ; we made a sign for them to come on board, but could not prevail with them to come any nearer.

Our captain ordered our yawl to be hoisted out, and four hands and our lieutenant, (of which I was one) to row up to the boat to know what they wanted, and whether they could spare us any water. As soon as they saw our boat coming, they took to their oars, and rowed towards land. We kept calling to them, but they made no answer, yet kept beckoning us to follow them, which we did, though they fired two musquets on board our ship for us to return.

When we came on shore, there stood about thirty men under arms to receive us, one of which, who was very neatly drest after the Moorish fashion, gave us to understand,

stand, he was their captain. Their arms were the neatest I ever saw. The captain asked us in bad Spanish, what nation we were of? Our linguist answered, we were English, and that we wanted water. The captain told him, if he were sure we were English, he would serve us in any thing, that lay in his power, provided it did not clash with the allegiance he owed his prince; for that he himself had been taken up by the English, and very kindly used, when he made his escape from the Spaniards at Malaga, after he had been three or four years a prisoner: he told us he and twelve others escaped in a boat, which had but one oar; that they had been nine days on the sea, and had hardly any refreshment; that at length they were taken up by an English man of war, the captain of which was very kind to him, and used all possible means to recover him, he being at that time very sick and weak, and that he afterwards kindly carried him into Tangier, where his brother was bashaw; he then desired we would leave two of our men as hostages, and he would send two of his to enquire whether we were really English.

Accordingly the boat went away with two of his men in it, and the linguist and I were left; we were conducted to an old castle, which lay within about a quarter of a mile of the shore; as we went to the castle, the Moorish captain was very familiar with us, and talked

very

very pleasantly to the linguist. When we came there, he ordered us some boiled rice, which was very fine ; it was dished up after the Moorish manner, had a hole made in the middle, and a great deal of oil poured therein ; we had a dish with honey set by it, and he told our linguist, we might eat it with the oil, or with the honey ; we asked for spoons, but was told they used none, but eat it out of the hollow of the hand.

After we had eaten very heartily of this, they brought us in two water-melons, one of which was the largest I ever saw, and weighed near sixty pounds weight ; we cut the least into quarters, of which we eat very heartily, as we had not had any fresh provisions for a long time ; and as to the other, they told us, we should take it on board with us.

When we had sufficiently regaled ourselves, we took a walk with the Moorish captain, round the castle, as he called it, though I have seen a barn in England that has made a great deal better appearance. While we were walking with him, one of his men came puffing and blowing, and told the captain, that our ship was going off with his men, which surprised him very much. He told us what the man said, and desired us to go to the other part of the castle, were we might see the ship very plain, and know whether it was true or not.

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Accordingly we went, and saw the ship under sail. I told him that the men which he had sent to our ship, having told our captain that his honour would be pleased to furnish us with such necessaries as he could spare, they had hove up the anchor, and had taken a stretch off, in order to bring the ship nearer in, for the conveniency of coming and going with the boat; and that, in about half an hour, he would see the ship tack about; but all we could say, could not make him believe it. He told us, in a very genteel and pretty manner, that he must be obliged to put us in prison, till he saw our ship come to an anchor; but as soon as she did, we should be immediately released. We readily consented, and was put into a dungeon in the castle. They put three or four mats on the ground, that we might not catch cold from the dampness of the place. It had only a little hole to let in the light, and was very dark and dismal, but we were exceeding merry, having just had a delicious meal, and knowing we should soon be released.

Before we had been an hour in this dungeon the door was opened, and we were at liberty to come out. When we came out, we saw our ship at anchor, about half a league from the shore, and, in about half an hour after, we saw our boat coming ashore; upon this the captain and his men, who were

were still under arms, bore us company to the sea, where the boat was to land.

When our men came on shore, they brought the two Moors with them. The Moorish captain gave our men leave to cut wood, and get water, which they did ; the wood was short stumpy-stuff, and the water, though very good, yet was got with great difficulty ; nor could they possibly get above a hogshead in an hour, the spring being a very small one, they got about a hogshead and a half of water, and a pretty deal of wood, which they carried on board.

While our men were getting the water, and wood, I had the pleasure of seeing some of the Moorish sports. The soldiers took each other by one hand, and dexterously, with a touch, tripped one another up. Being resolved to be satisfied, whether they fell not on purpose, I took one of them by the hand ; and, though I endeavoured all I could to throw him, yet he had me down in an instant, this I could not have believed, had I not try'd it.

Another diversion they had, which was to run to a particular place, but before they set out, each man threw one of his sandals, or shoes, as far as he could throw it, which he was to pick up as he ran to the place appointed. This they did with such surprising agility, that though the place appointed was always much farther than they could throw the sandal, yet it was hardly possible to tell

when

when they stoop'd to pick it up. I confess, I never saw men so active in my life, and I was very much pleased to see their pastimes.

I made the Moorish captain a present of an ivory clasped-knife, with which he was very much pleased; and he gave me in return a dozen of fowls; he likewise gave our lieutenant and agent six goats; we bought nothing, though there was a Moor offered to sell us a cow, for which he asked near eight pounds English money, but we thought it much too dear, it being very small.

We got every thing ready in order to go on board; but while we were talking with the Moors, the men who were left to look after the boat, let her go a-ground, and in getting her afloat, filled her full of water, so that the goats and all the fowls were drowned, after she was afloat. I swam at her bow, with one hand, and shoved with the other, one of our men being in her at the same time, heaving out the water; all the rest of the men had left her, the sea running very high, and they not knowing how to swim.

After he had pretty well cleared the boat of the water, I endeavoured to save some of the fowls, but they were dead; however, I pulled their heads off, after which they bled pretty much, and were very good eating.

Our agent desired the Moors to launch their boat, and to bring him, and the other men

men to our boat, but they would not, as their captain was gone away, unless he gave them something for their trouble (I think it was two sequins, about eighteen shillings of our money) which he was obliged to do, there being no other boat near the place; accordingly they took them to their boat, and brought them to us, and we all got safe on board our own ship.

The 25th of August we weighed anchor, and set sail for the Canary islands. Nothing material happened for two or three days.

The 28th of August we saw one of the Canary islands, called Lanceretto; our captain would have sent the boat ashore to have got some more water, but was afraid the place might be fortified, as it belonged to the Spaniards, and we were then at war with them.

The 29th of August we were under the east side of fort Ventura, another of the Canary islands, which we coasted round all that day. Towards the going down of the sun, we saw abundance of flying-fish. The captain told us, there were certainly dolphins near; and bid us, if any of us had any lines, to put them in. I had two or three lines with me, and some cod hooks, which I had bought in London. I lent one of my lines to our master, and the other I baited myself. He baited his with a piece of pork, stuck with feathers, to imitate the flying-fish, and in about ten minutes he hooked one, but in hauling

hauling of it in, it got off the hook. The master being called to trim the sails, desired me to look after the line, and I should have half what I caught for him. In a few minutes after he was gone, one of the captain's servants, who had hold of the line, cried out, come and help me, for I have got a fish; I ran to him, and helped him to haul it up, it was a dolphin of about twenty-four pounds weight, and looked very beautiful when it first came out of the water; I sold my share to the captain for a bottle of rum, and a pound of sugar.

About ten at night we lay to, being little or no wind; and, as we were talking and laughing together, something struck hard against our main sail, and fell on the deck, it proved to be a flying-fish. It was eighteen inches long, and twenty-two broad from the tip of each wing. We drest it, and I had the pleasure to eat part of it, being the first of that kind I had ever tasted.

The 30th of August, about four in the morning, it blew very hard, and our master being forward^s, saw the breakers just a-head, upon which he cried out, we are almost a-shore. We got under sail immediately, and stretched clear off the ridge of rocks, which run out to the westward, the wind being then at north-east. We stretched away for the Grand Canaries, and lay near that island the remainder of the day; nothing material happening, we continued there all night.

The

The 31st of August, in the morning, we made sail for the Pike of Teneriffe; and, about five in the evening, we got under Point Niger, and lay by all night.

The 1st of September, in the morning, we saw a sail about two leagues from the land, bearing directly towards us. As we lay close under land, they could not see us, till they came almost upon us, but, as soon as they saw us, they made all the sail they possibly could towards the Grand Canary.

We began the chace about ten o'clock in the morning, and pursued them for several hours; about three in the afternoon, we came within gun shot of them. We fired several shot at them, but the wind blowing fresh, carried away our flying-gib-boom, and we were forced to take in our top-gallant sail. This gave them an opportunity of escaping us, as she was a stiffer ship than ours, and could carry her sails better aloft. At eight o'clock at night we lost sight of her, and then we put about, and stood for the Pike of Teneriffe again. The ship we had given chace to all this day, was the Triumph Snow, as we were afterwards informed.

The 2d of September, in the morning, we saw two sail to the windward, between the Grand Canary and Teneriffe; we gave them chace for several hours, they still endeavouring to get into Santa Cruz Bay, but being to the leward of them, they could not get in without falling into our hands.

About

About four o'clock in the afternoon, one of our chace weathered Point Niger, and got into Port Oratavia ; the other endeavoured to get between us and the land, into Santa Cruz Bay, but we intercepted her, fired a shot at her, and brought her to. She was a Hamburg ship, Capt. Haws commander, she came that morning out of Santa Cruz Bay, was laden with pipe staves, and was going to port Oratavia. We took all her hands out of her, put in some of ours, and lay to all night.

The third of September, in the morning, we went on board the Hamburg ship, to keep as close to us as possible. We made sail, and stood towards her, and she bore directly down upon us in about half an hour's time ; we discovered her to be an armed vessel, which our captain took to be a Spanish privateer, and accordingly gave orders to get all ready to fight her.

When she came near us, they fired three guns at us from her bow chace ; our captain ordered us not to fire till we came along side, and then to give her a broadside, at which time our shot would do execution. When we came near her, we threw out our colours, and fired a shot at her ; they immediately brought to, hoisted out her boat, and came on board us. She proved to be an English privateer, and came from Gibraltar. We asked them what success they had met with ? They told us, they had been cruising

cruising for a month, and had taken nothing, but a few fishing boats. We had informed them of the ship we had given chase to, two days before, and describing her, they told us, it was the Triumph Snow, their consort (which I have mentioned before) and that they were to meet each other near the Canary islands. We kept company with this privateer all the day, and the night following, during which time nothing material happened.

The 4th of September, in the morning, the captain of the privateer informed us, that he had been on shore at Point Niger, and had brought off several cattle and two pipes of wine; that there were several pipes of wine in the cellar from whence he took the two, but that his boat was so deeply laden, he could not bring any more away. He also informed our captain, that it was a place of no strength, for that about twelve or fourteen of our people, might fetch all the wine away in our boat, without any danger.

The captain of the Hamburg ship likewise told us, that there was a galleon in Santa Cruz Bay, which was going to the Havannah, only she had not her sails bent; our captain was for failing into the Bay, and cutting her from her anchor, but it was thought to be running too great a hazard.

The 5th of September, we discharged the Hamburg ship; the wind blowing hard at north,

north, we were not able to weather Point Niger, though we used our utmost endeavours to do it.

At night the Hamburgh ship fell in with us again. We took the captain and mate on board us, and put some of our men on board her. The reason of our taking her again into custody, was for fear she should get round Point Niger before us, and so into port Oratavia, and discover our designs to the Spaniards.

The 6th of September, about ten o'clock in the morning, we weathered Point Niger, and the Hamburgh man with us. As soon as we came to the northward of the Point, we hoisted out the yawl, and all our hands were called on deck, to know who would go on shore to get the wine, which the privateer informed us lay there in a cellar.

Our Master and second lieutenant chose out eleven men to go with them, of which I was one. As soon as we were going into the boat, the captain of the Hamburgh ship desired our captain not to let us go; telling him, that the captain of the privateer was mistaken, for that in reality it was a hazardous enterprise, there being many inhabitants near that place; and that, if they overcame us, they would certainly destroy us all. However we got into the boat, and rowed as fast as we could towards land.

When the Spaniards saw our boat coming, they began to sound their cows-horns,
to

to call their people together. When we came pretty near the shore, we saw several men behind the rocks, who began to throw stones at us, with great fury, though they did not do us much damage ; upon which our master asked us, if we were all willing to land. We told him, one and all, we were. He then ordered two of the men to keep in the boat, and the other nine, himself, and the lieutenant landed, though the Spaniards kept pelting us with stones all the while.

As soon as we landed, the men that had thrown stones at us ran away. We marched up in very good order to the cellar, where we thought to have found the wine ; but when we came there, it was all taken away. There were several women's shifts in the place, which we took, and put on over our other apparel, which caused us to make a very comical appearance.

We found some grapes, figs, abundance of onions, and two pipes of vinegar, but no wine ; we likewise shot two hogs, some fowls, &c. and got some other plunder.

By this time the country was up in arms, and we could perceive near an hundred upon the hills, which were directly over against us, who began to throw stones at us, they likewise fired at us several times, but did us no hurt. We kept a continual fire at them, whenever they came within gun shot, but we did them no great harm, as they kept behind

behind the rocks, only peeping out now and then to pelt us with stones.

As we saw a great multitude coming down the hills to their assistance, and we being but eleven in number, (the other two being left to take care of the boat) we made to her as fast as we could.

When our men that were in the boat saw us coming towards them, they hauled up the grapping, and rowed as fast as they could towards the shore to take us in; but when they were within a boat's length of the shore, they unfortunately run her upon a sunken rock, and hung her just by the middle.

By this mischance we had like, every one of us, to have lost our lives; for the Spaniards throwing stones from the hills down upon us, we all ran into the boat before the two men could get her off.

The water where she was hung was about four feet deep, and every one striving who should get in first, we wet all our fire-arms and ammunition, so that we lay open to our enemies, without being able to defend ourselves.

The Spaniards seeing this, and knowing our ammunition was wet, because we had ceased firing, came running down the shore, and throwed stones at us, with greater fury than ever.

Our master seeing us in such imminent danger, ordered me to hold the rudder, while

two of our men jumped over board, and hove off the boat ; I unhung the rudder accordingly, and held before their heads, to prevent their being killed with the stones, which the Spaniards kept continually throwing at us.

While I was holding the rudder I received two terrible wounds on my head, the one on the upper part of my forehead, the other just above my left ear. I had likewise a slight wound on my left arm, notwithstanding which, I held the rudder before the men, to keep them as much as possible from danger.

The men with great difficulty got off the boat, we got them in, and hung the rudder on again, there was not a man in the boat but what was wounded ; one in particular, whose name was Robert Walmesley, had like to have been killed, being dangerously wounded on the right side of the head ; before we rowed off, we gave them three cheers (i. e. huzzas) and then rowed to our own ship.

I brought on board, for my part of the plunder, a new smock, a bell-metal pestle and mortar, two pewter plates, and a few onions, which was more than was got by any other person ; but, in getting into our boat, I lost one of my pistols, as well as the rest of the boat's crew, which was picked up by the country people after we were gone.

When

When we came on board, the doctor and his mate dreſt us all. We made sail, stood in nearer the land, and fired five or six shot at a gentleman's house that stood within a quarter of a mile of the cellar, where we had been to seek after the wine, but did no great damage. We put about and stood off all that night, with the Hamburgh ship still in our custody.

The 7th of September, in the morning, we went on board the Hamburgh ship, and searched her again, for our captain still suspected she had Spanish goods on board; but finding none, he discharged her, after taking out her pilot, who was a Spaniard.

The reason of our taking the Spanish pilot was, because our captain designed he should pilot us into port Oratavia, that we might cut out what vessels lay there. But the captain of the Hamburgh ship told him it was a thing impracticable, for the place was very strong, there being two batteries and a castle.

This our captain did not believe, and threatned to hang the Spanish pilot if he did not carry us safe into the port. The poor Spaniard was terribly frightned, and said, he would do all that lay in his power, but that he could not help their firing at us from the batteries.

At length our captain told the captain of the Hamburgh ship, that if he would fend him off two pipes of wine, and three or four

puncheons of water, he should have the pilot, and go into the port, which he might do with a great deal of safety, as his country and the Spaniards were not at war. This the Hamburg captain readily agreed to, took the pilot, and went in the same day. When I found the Hamburg captain was going to bring us off some wine, I gave his mate three shillings, and an iron-bound cagg, which held three gallons, to buy me as much wine as that would purchase. We lay to all night, without any thing material happening.

The 8th of September, early in the morning, we lay within sight of the port, expecting the Hamburg captain to come off with the wine; but he not coming, about eight o'clock we stood nigher in, we fired a gun to the leward, but there was no sign of their boat's coming. About noon we saw abundance of fish about our ship, and it being calm, all our men that had lines went a fishing; our captain harpooned a fine dolphin from our spritsail yard-arm.

About four o'clock in the afternoon we fired another gun to the leward, to try if the boat belonging to the Hamburg ship would come off, but at last we found that they had no design to come at all, and therefore it was thought needless to wait any longer for him.

About six o'clock in the evening, we stood under an easy sail, off shore, and thought we

we saw five small vessels coming out of Port Oratavia, which we took to be the St. Elme, and four other small vessels ; we got ready to fight them ; but, when the sun rose higher, we found they were only five white houses, which stood just upon the shore.

About ten o'clock in the forenoon we hoisted out our boat, and the captain ordered our master to take six or seven men with him, and to sound with our line, along shore as near as we could. Accordingly the master ordered in the boat's crew, of which I was one ; we were eight in number, viz. seven besides the master.

About eleven o'clock we put off from the ship, we took with us our deep sea line, and our hand line, and all being well armed, rowed towards the shore, keeping the lead going all the way ; we could find no bottom with our hand line, till we came within a cable's length of the shore, then we rowed cross the bay, till we came within musquet shot of the privateer that lay there, and could see the Spaniards very plain on the shore ; we hoisted Swedish colours, fired a musquet, and rowed away as fast as possible towards our own ship.

The Spaniards, all the while we were coming towards them, never offered to fire a gun, for they imagined we were coming on shore, they fired upon us from the castle, the two batteries, and the privateer, all at once ; their first fire went all over us, but

their second came within two boats length of us, and one ball came so nigh the stern, that it throwed the water all over us.

We kept rowing for our lives, till we thought we were out of danger, then we lay upon our oars, and threw our deep sea line over board, to try if we could find any bottom, but found none. When we had hauled in the line, the master ordered our trumpeter to sound, BRITONS strike home, which was done; but, while he was sounding, a ball came from the castle and grazed in the water, about fifty yards a stern of us; it rose again and came in at the stern of the boat, between the master and the trumpeter. We being all in our shirts, it took of the belly of mine, but did me no other damage; it shot off the sleeve of one Thomas Penryston, whose mother kept a poulters shop at Kensington, and took off the leg and thigh of another man who rowed at the bow oar. He lived about two hours after we had got on board, and then expired. The last went through the bow of our boat, about three inches above water.

As soon as we got on board we hoisted in our boat, and acquainted our captain with the strength of the place, who, thinking it was too strong for us, ordered us to set sail, and stand away for the island of Palma, which is another of the Canary islands.

The

The 10th of September, in the morning, we were near the island of Palma, where we saw two vessels making towards the island of Teneriffe. We gave them chase, but they being a great way a-head, and having a fair wind, we left off the chase, about four o'clock in the afternoon, and stood away to the westward of Teneriffe. Nothing material happened the remainder of the day, and at night we lay to.

The 11th of September, early in the morning, we saw a little bay or creek to the westward of the island. We stood in very near it, and they began to fire at us from a small battery of three guns. We fired several shot at them, but did them no damage, as our shot did not reach them.

At about a mile from the shore, as we then imagined we saw a large house, which we took to be the castle, because they kept continually firing at us, though I believe, the shot from thence never reached the water.

We kept off and on all that day in expectation of picking up some of their small craft to burn, our fuel being near exhausted, not having above enough to boil our provisions for three or four days, but we met with nothing.

The 12th of September, early in the morning, we were close under the island of Gomera (which is another of the Canary islands) and within about two leagues of

the town. Our captain proposed going on shore, with two of our boats to get water, and to hoist a flag of truce; but when we came within half a league of the shore, they began to fire at us from a small battery of five guns, which lay on a point of a rock. We exchanged a great many shot with them, and could see our balls strike against the rock, but theirs did not reach us.

While we were firing at each other, we saw a vessel run out from under a point of land, that lay about a league to the northward of us, and endeavoured to stretch over to the island of Teneriffe, which is another of the Canary islands. As soon as we saw her, we made all the sail we could towards her. She being then about a league to the windward of us, she put about, and stood close upon a wind. We chased her for several hours, she endeavouring, as we imagined, to go round the west part of Gomera, but the wind being then north-west, she was not able to weather the point, but run in, and came to an anchor, within half a cable's length of the shore.

As she was a bark of about sixty tons burthen, we were afraid to go in with our ship, lest there might be any sunken rocks near shore; so the captain ordered our yawl to be hoisted out, and our master to choose out his boat's crew, and to go up to her with all the precaution that might be; and, if we succeeded, to bring her off.

As

As there was no battery at that part of the island where the bark lay at anchor, we manned the yawl with but eleven hands, including officers, viz. myself, as master of arms; Mr. James Tinmouth, master; Mr. Warren, second lieutenant; and Mr. James Wyatt, trumpeter.

The vessel we had chased, and which we were now going after, was a Spanish barco-longo. She came from the island of Palma, and was going to the island of Teneriffe, laden with sugar and brandy, to put on board a galleon that lay at Santa Cruz, and is the same that we were going to cut out of the bay, when we were in company with the Hamburg ship, captain Haws commander, as has been before related.

There running a strong current, and the wind being just in our teeth, we were not able to row the boat a-head with five oars, so made directly towards the shore, and rowed along side close under the land, the current not running so strong there.

We were three hours after we left the ship, before we got within musquet shot of the bark; our master asked us, if we were all willing to board her? we answered, one and all, we were. We saw twelve men on shore, and made directly towards them. Our master said, my boys, the bark is our own, for these men belonged to her, but have left her, let us give them one volley, and then board the bark. We had two blunderbusses, besides

bras blunderbusses mounted on swivels, in the bow of our boat. Our master stepped forward to one of them himself, and I went to the other ; he bid me take the best aim I could, and told me he would do the same. We had no sooner discharged the blunderbusses, but two or three hundred men came from behind the rocks. We had been so long getting to the bark, that the men belonging to her, unknown to us, had got out of her, gone up the country, and brought these people to their assistance.

Our blunderbusses being discharged, the men from behind the rocks kept a constant fire at us, and, the very first fire, our master received a ball just above his right eye, and another went through my right shoulder. We rowed directly to the bark, the lieutenant, myself, and four more leaped into her, and those that were in the boat handed in our arms.

As soon as we were in the bark, our lieutenant ordered one of our men to take a pole-axe, and cut the cable, saying, she would drive off. I told him, if the cable was cut, she would certainly drive ashore, for she was then almost upon the Breakers. He seemed a little angry at what I said ; though, had my advice been followed, it had been better for us all : for as soon as the cable was cut, she turned broad-side to the sea, and, in a few minutes after, struck ashore against the rocks.

By

By the bark's swinging round our boat, we were exposed to the fire of the enemy; upon which Mr. Parry ordered the three men in the boat to row off. Their companions in the bark called after them, but Mr. Parry, and the three men, did not regard their unhappy companions, who still fought with great courage, till being over powered by numbers of the enemy. Every man was slain except one, whose name was Mr. Wyatt, whom they made prisoner, and who afterwards underwent many hardships and misfortunes.

The enemy, during the fight, fired very smartly at the boat that was making off to their own ship: Mr. Parry was shot through the heart, and died immediately.

When the three men had gained their own ship, the captain ordered the corps of Mr. Parry to be buried after the sea manner, viz. being sewed up in his hammock, with a large bullet sewed in at each end, and then thrown into the sea; at the same time, the men being drawn up by the ship's side, fired a volley of small arms. He was a man well beloved in general by the officers and crew, and behaved well in the station he was in. Thus ends the life of the unfortunate Mr. James Parry, whose vicissitudes of life few could equal.

LOVE LETTERS
THAT PASSED BETWEEN
Mr. JAMES PARRY
A N D
PARTHENISSA, &c.

Note, Those Letters that are marked

- (a) Were written in characters.
 - (b) Were written backwards.
 - (c) Were written in lemon juice.
 - (d) Were written in urine.

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LOVE LETTERS

B E T W E E N

J A M E S P A R R Y

A N D

P A R T H E N I S S A.

I. To Mrs. ELIZABETH D—N.

Madam,

THE sweetness of your beauty,
and the excellency of your vir-
T tues, have so fully taken up my
thoughts, and so firmly surpriz-
ed and vanquished my heart,
that I am so much yours, both by conquest
and duty, as I know not whether I do more
affect or honour, or more admire or adore
you. Therefore, if you are as courteous as
fair, return me your heart, as I now give
and

and send you mine, and assure yourself, that my affection is so infinite and intire to you, that I love and desire you a thousand times more than mine own life, and will esteem my death both sweet and happy, if you will henceforth live mine by marriage. Your will shall be my law, and be assured you have not so fervent a lover, or so constant a servant, upon earth, as he who is proud to subscribe himself,

X X X Dear Madam,

Your devoted Slave,

Friday Morn.

JAMES PARRY.

II. To Mrs. ELIZABETH D—N.

Dear Madam,

YOUR sweet and excellent beauty hath enkindled so fervent a flame in my heart, that your late disrespect and contempt of me, is not sufficiently prevalent to make me soon, or slightly forsake you. Although you term my love folly, and my affection obstinacy, yet until you cease to be fair, find it not strange, if it be impossible for me to cease to be affectionate. Neither do I sacrifice my shame to your glory, or cast away my tears upon your contempt, since I perform it more out of duty than compliment, and rather out of true zeal than false hypocrisy. And as the strongest cities and castles,

Jan

castles, by the rule of war, so the fairest beauties by that of love, deserve to be honoured with more than one assault or siege; and that officer cannot be termed a soldier, gentleman, or a lover, who will be put off with the first repulse, especially from so beautiful an enemy as yourself; neither can it breed any repentance in me, to be a slave to so fair a mistress, because the excellence of your beauty is every way capable both to confound sense, and to subvert and overthrow reason: be then but as courteous as you are fair, and as kind as I am constant, and I will with pleasure sacrifice my life at the shrine of your beauty, and prostrate my zeal and service at the feet of your commands, which if you please to grant me, nothing on earth can make me miserable.

I am, Madam, your Admirer,
And Devoted Servant,

Tuesday Morn,

JAMES PARRY.

III. To Mr. PARRY.

HERE is none but you that thinks me a fool, and you have reason, for every action of my life to you is nothing but foolishness; or who would have parted with a thing, that when you enjoyed it I was certain you would not come near me; and to give scrubs what is my due, is unsufferable.

able. Oh! heavens, were it all to begin again, how happy should I be; but as it is I must (if I can) bear the fate of ruined girls. It is true, I have a good mother, but she does not know the injury she does me, in keeping me at home to see but one man, and he to despise me as much as I love him: but had it always been so, I should not have been miserable; but, oh! how often has he told me he loved me, till he had the fatal secret from me, that I loved him ten times more than it was possible for him to do me. When the conscience is once stung by sin, how dismal are all one's thoughts, and every thing appears black! the wicked have no rest at night, for their frightful dreams; oh! how happy are the innocent, they have nothing to fear. Adieu.

IV. TO PARTHENISSA.

My Dearest,

YOUR staying in Monmouth longer than I expected, and being in company with Mr. Doomsday (who, I am informed, gallants you) gives me a great deal of uneasiness. Mr. Doomsday, I allow, is good natured; but yet, I do not approve of his being familiar with you, lest he should discover the warm and sincere affection I have for you; and I really tell you, that I sympathize with you (although fully persuaded that

that neither of us have a just reason) in jealousy. But, to make short of the matter, if you will not come home to night, I will actually go towards London upon Monday morning. None in the world more affectionately yours than

Saturday, 12 o'Clock.

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. I was glad to hear that you refused to dance with Mr. Doomsday, or any other Person.

V. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

TO be forsaken's worse than torn,
And death a lesser ill than scorn.
No forest, cave, or savage den,
Holds more pernicious beasts than men.
Vows, oaths, and contracts, they devise,
And tell us, they are sacred ties;
And so they are, in our esteem,
But empty names despised by them.
Women with studied arts they vex;
Ye Gods, destroy that impious sex,
And if there must be some t'invoke
Your powers, and make your altars smoke,
Come down yourselves, and in their place
Get a more just and nobler race;
Such as the old world did adorn,
When heroes like yourselves were born.
But this I wish not for poor M—y's sake,
For she no God wou'd for her Jemmy take.

The

The heart, which is our passion's seat,
 Whether we will or no does beat ;
 And yet we may suppress our breath ;
 This lets us see that life and death
 Are in our power, but love and hate
 Depend not on our will, but fate.
 Oh that some hungry beast wou'd come,
 And make himself poor M—y's tomb !
 If none accept me for a prey,
 Death must be found some other way.

I could write on, but I am afraid you will
 not give yourself the trouble of reading it,
 because it comes from your forsaken fond
 one,

PARTHENISSA.

VI. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

I Wondered what made you shun me so
 much ; but now alas, I know the fatal
 reason ! O consider the oaths, vows, and
 promises you have made me, which you have
 broke, except that, that when you proved
 unconstant (which you often swore should
 never be) you would not come near me ; but
 your lustful temper could not withstand the
 temptation of a common woman. So for
 one that is common to a regiment, I am
 left. But the just God, by whom you swore
 to be true to me, will not forgive thee so
 soon as thou imaginest ; and what can you
 expect but his severe wrath for my ruin ; and
 may

may the seducing of me be an eternal sting to thy conscience in all thy embraces. My virgin and unwary innocence was wronged by faithless man, who defies the Almighty daily by his impurities. Thy flattery bewitched me, and I insensibly declined to a kindness for a person who I thought valued me so much. I began with thinking thy passion only an esteem, and as such cherished that out of vanity, which I afterwards rewarded out of love. I put the very best construction upon whatever you said and did. Thy rudeness I took for the violence of thy passion, and thou easily didst obtain pardon. I, by degrees, suffered in you, what I should take to be insolence in another; I fancied that one that loved so much, could never have a thought that was injurious to me. I forgot all thy compliments were mercenary, and thy passion lust. Whatever you have told me of being my captive, your purpose was to make me yours: you pretended to be entirely at my devotion, when all the while you was working my destruction.— The servitude of a prostitute is the most slavish in the world; for besides all the interest of another life, which she basely resigns, she sacrifices all that is valuable in this; she puts her reputation wholly in the power of him who has debauched her, and what is worse, her reformation too: if she should have a mind to return to virtue she dares not, for fear he should divulge her former strayings from

from it; thus she is engaged to future evils to secure the past; she subjects herself, not only to his lust, but to his humours and fancies: but there is another painful effect of this sin; what fears of my being left by him, what jealousies of rivals have very often tortured me, and not without ground; for I cannot but think, that the same humour of variety which engaged him to me, may do the same for another, and another, and so on; in which I have the mortification to see myself neglected and forsaken, for ugly common trulls, in every one else's eye, but the soldiers and his own; but fancy being the tyrant of this passion, it is as possible to grasp air, as to confine a wandering lust as yours is; but when I take courage to look inward, the view is yet more dreadful. A deformed soul, spoiled of its innocence, and rendered almost as brutish as the sin it has consented to, though it be in some respect like the beast that perisheth, yet it is not, it cannot be in that which would avail it most. An endless being it cannot lose; nor can it expect any thing from that pre-eminence of its nature, but an infinity of misery. How can I think of appearing before the Almighty, to give an account of my wicked life without horror? would it not be better for me there should be no God, before whom to appear, than an omnipotent all-seeing one, who has been witness to our most secret sins? the mountains I call upon

to

to cover me from the God of purity; but alas, they are immovable, and I must stand fully exposed to his intolerable wrath! better for me that I could return to my original nothing. Oh! pity the sad condition you have brought me to; a woman that has lost her honour and reputation, is the contempt even of him who first betrayed her to it, and is a perpetual blot to her name and family. Oh! from what I have found of the force of love, let me consider, why has the great God given this soft passion strength to triumph over the endeavours of the most accomplished mortals. This goad of pleasure, this fatal sweetness, this irresistible desire, so tempered with human clay, by thy wise all-creating hands, as if it were a necessary and an inseparable ingredient of it. O! thou bright original of all things! didst thou not foresee the mischief it would occasion? could'st thou not have given another kind of constitution? but good God, what am I doing? dare I, miserable wretch, find any error in the creation, or from the wickedness of mankind, arraign his mercy to mankind? is it nothing then to animate wretched clay to the degree of Godhead; to put it in their choice; to give them power and capacity to share with angelick natures, immortality and immortal bliss? and by a method so inviting and so easy, that all who have their reason about them, would prefer
the

the law to liberty, and the precepts of God
to those of nature.

But alas! I was ruined when in an age before I knew the use of reason, or could have a true sense of glory; and am forsaken now. Nay he had the insolence last night, before my face, to hug Jenny Birch; and oh! in what raptures did he then cry Nancy! Nancy! Nancy! but may all the plagues of heaven fall upon his false heart for deceiving me. May he marry and be deceived as I am! may his daughters be ravished in his sight, and may he want bread as when I first knew him! may the pox rot his flesh off, bit by bit, and then may he think on me! may the never-dying worm continually gnaw his conscience, and may he go where he bid me; * which was to the devil, to hell, and be damned! pride shall make me hate thee, for every one says thou wert but a — which I suppose is the reason you — you chuse the company you keep, for birds of a feather flock together.

Guilt hinders him from coming near me, for sure he will never approach me again, whom he has so much injured; for how can he ever see me, without being put in mind of all the oaths he has swore to me, and how much he is perjured? may thou be eternally curst, thou author of all my woes;

* That happened the day she saw me kiss Dolly Dew.
See Memoirs, &c.

it is finished. Now man may do his utmost, for I cannot be more lost.

My crime is my punishment ; be a very man, when I tell you of my love, upbraid me with my folly ; be modishly ungrateful, because I have been unfashionably kind ; and use me worse than you would any body else, because you cannot use me so well as I deserve.

When you read this, remember it was wrote by a girl, who once loved you better than you ever were before or ever will again ; but your usage has taught her to curse thee, for thou wert not worthy keeping a heart to thy self, and I hope thou'l never have one again to trample on. Decemb. the 18th, 1734. Adieu.

VII. To PARTHENISSA.

My Lovely Angel,

I Have perused the paper which I took from your snowy bosom, and must confess, it is wrote in a very sublime stile ; but being well assured that the language in it, has been taken out of romances, plays, &c. (particularly a remarkable speech of lady Lurewell's) it has had not the effect upon me, that it would have had, provided the stile had been fraught with your own graces.

You must (my dearest) excuse my inability, in not answering you in so high a stile, having no romances, &c. to pick out of ; nevertheless,

theless, I will do my endeavour to answer you, as well as I possibly can, in down-right English.

You accuse me (my fair one) with keeping company with a woman, who you say is common to a regiment; with shunning you, and the Lord knows what. You have given me a great deal of uneasiness, by your being jealous of a woman, to whom I am an entire stranger, both as to person and parts, and I solemnly declare that I know nothing of her (I mean as to carnal knowledge) any more than speaking to her once, and that time you was at Nicholas F —'s. And by all the extasy with which I have lost myself in enjoying you, I (for your sake) will not offer or make love to her, nor any other woman, as long as you live: Neither do I desire or expect for the future, that peculiar blessing of being clasped in your arms.

You tell me I was insolent in hugging Jenny Birch, the other night; that indeed gives me fresh surprise: I beg leave to ask you, whether or no you were the person, that bid me (as you called it) smuggle her up in presence of your mamma, in order to make her believe, that I paid my address to Jenny. Consider that, I say, and believe you will blame yourself for calling me insolent, when at the same time, I only acted, according to the directions which had formerly been given me by you. I own I was to blame, in mentioning, the word Nancy

two or three times, because I was sensible it would put you out of temper, yet believe me, I am an entire stranger to her name, person, and temper; but (as Mackbeth says) a jealous woman believes every thing passion suggests, it is your own case. Was I to be legally married to you (and as it is I have no manner of comfort) I must of course lead a miserable life, not only from your jealous temper; but a woman that maintains her husband (forgive my frankness) is full of wrath, impudence, and much reproach. This I am afraid would be my case, should I continue with you: so for the future I will retain nothing of you, excepting your lovely idea; that indeed can never be erased out of my memory. My charmer, it is the friendship I have for you, that makes me lay myself so open to you. I therefore beg that you will make a firm resolution, never to offend the Almighty any more, but return to virtue. I no way will be your hindrance, and whatever has past between us, shall (for my part) die and be in eternal oblivion.

You say in yours, that the servitude of a prostitute is the most slavish in the world. If you must needs give yourself those black titles, it is not in the power of any one to hinder you; but for my part (since the 7th of March, when we married each other) I have always looked upon you, and respected you as the better part of myself, and you

most certainly are my wife in the sight of heaven.

You say, you are afraid of my leaving you; I cannot, neither will I pretend to stay in Ross; for (as I have honestly paid all those to whom I was indebted to in the town) I think it absolutely necessary to go and seek a livelihood in some other part of the kingdom (especially as there is no salary fixt here) whilst I have good cloaths, linnen, and money by me. You complain that jealousies of rivals have often tortured you, and not without grounds. I solemnly protest, I never gave you any just reason to suspect my constancy and affection. Heaven knows my sincerity; I will do my endeavour to forget your sex, and be assured that for the future, I never will bring you to that ill habit of concupisence; you may follow your own inclination with others; but if you should err, I am no way to be accountable for your so doing. I heartily pity the sad condition, that you say I have brought you to. I wish with all my soul, that I never had had any thing to do with your honour, since things are come to this unhappy crisis; but be assured, my lovely girl, that you are far from being the contempt of me; you are too deeply rooted in my heart, and I have always loved you dearer than my eyes, and I shall always respect your name and family. So that if you are a blot to them, it will entirely be your own fault.

You

You tell me you was ruined in an age, before you had the use of reason, or a true sense of glory. In my opinion you very well might have spared yourself the trouble of mentioning that sentence. If you are ruined, you yourself was the sole cause of it; for you made several overtures of love to me, before I ever presumed to press your panting breast, or suck your balmy lips, which are sweeter than all the aromatic spices of the eastern world.

You should not have mentioned the word Age, because you are older than myself, being born upon the 10th of October 1711, and myself upon the 20th of March 1712-13.

As to your cursing me, wishing me rotted, &c. &c. it does no way move me. Far be it from me to return the compliment, for I sincerely wish you all the happiness heaven can bestow.

Your saying that every body knew I was but a — which made me keep such company, &c. does not in the least disturb me. What name you meant by the long — I am at a loss to find out. The company I keep is the best in the town, and as for your telling me I wanted bread when you first knew me, no way moves me, for even yourself know that to be as false as ever woman was; but having the honour to be acquainted with your temper, and believing you at pre-

sent to be in a violent passion, I am resolved that you shall take your own time to cool yourself. It will be advisable for both of us to change our lives, and not to expose ourselves to superlative evils. Think well of what I say ; if we have the least sense of religion, our hairs should stand an end, when we consider that we may die suddenly, and having no time to prepare ourselves. Both sexes die at all places, at all ages, and at all times : we are sure of nothing in this world but that we must all die. We must (my angel) all give an exact account of all our thoughts, words, or actions. Therefore delay no longer taking up a new course of life ; make good use of the time God is pleased to give you, betake yourself to repentance, and make a firm resolution never to offend him any more. Follow the precepts of Mrs. Stedman, in worshipping the Almighty daily, and do not neglect the advice of your well-wisher. I would not have you be fearful of what the licentious world says of you, but be afraid of dying a scandal to your relations. My guardian angel, I must conclude, wishing you may serve God, love your friends, and pardon your enemies ; be likewise just to all people, and do no injury to any person. If you observe these rules, you may defy the devil, for you will undoubtedly be happy in that world to come ; but you must always remember, that the greater

greater you are, the more you are obliged to give the first example.

I am

(thou most agreeable of thy Sex)

Your affectionate Friend and Servant,

Dec. 19, 1734.

JAMES PARRY.

VIII. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

Mr. PARRY,

I think you were very silly in going to Hereford, when you knew that the man from Gloucester was to play upon the organ here yesterday; but as it happens it is no great matter: he played in the morning most wretchedly, and never was psalm tunes given out so bad as he gave them; his interludes were shocking, insomuch that some pitied him, and others laughed at him; among the latter sort, you may be sure, we bore a part. In the afternoon he played something better, which I suppose was owing to the instructions he received from some of the singers: but however, he is a miserable performer, and whoever advised him to come here, were no friends of yours, and the thing (now they have heard him play) will be of no service to him; he dined with Mr. Wear the curate; if you had had your wits about you, you never would have sent your beau clothes to Hereford, to shew away in,

especially at an assize time, because (as the old saying is) the judges always bring wet weather along with them. Pray take care of miss's mare, and dont (according to custom) gallop her hard. I am, sir,

Reſs, Mond.
Morning.

Your humble Servant,
PEN. P—L.

IX. To PARTHENISSA.

Thou Soul of my Soul, and End of all my
Wishes!

THE moment I saw thee at Jenny Birch's, viewing the strangers, I went up the church lane, intending to sit with thy mamma, till I saw thee returned, lest she should imagine (as I had asked thee to come out) that I was likewise at Jenny's. As soon as I came into the kitchen, I asked her if thou wert gone out; all the answer she gave me (notwithstanding I had said some other things to her) was a discontented look, and to my knowledge I never observed her to have looked so pale before. Immediately guessing at the reason, I quitted the room, but with what confusion, I will leave heaven and thee to determine. I met Pen. in the street, and she told me, the wrongest thing I ever did in my life time, was to ask thee to go and see the strangers: for (said she) my mistress is prodigiously angry with you for it, and is resolved to burn the music;

and

and she is actually bent upon sending miss to Mr. C—'s of the Hill to board.

Doubts and anxieties (my lovely angel) are ever the inseparable companions of love whilst in pursuit: heaven send ours once compleated, and give some period to this distracting suspence; and if what Pen. has told me (which heaven avert) should prove true, the Lord look down with an eye of compassion upon me. I am, my charmer, in the utmost despair, being fearful of losing thee, who art the only prop of my life; in losing thee, I shall lose myself; then may I safely say, cursed be the day that gave me birth, and doubly cursed be them that caused our separation, whose love has no equal. I would to heaven I was certain, that there is such a place after this life, where neither happiness nor misery could have any claim to me! then would I with pleasure destroy myself, lest that in this world I should see thee in the arms of another, which would be the greatest curse that heaven could inflict upon me here on earth. I am in tortures worse than a rack; therefore as thou tenderest my life, let me speak with thee this night at twelve, in thy chamber-window; till then, my lovely angel, and most sacred treasure of my soul, adieu.

Sat. 26, From thy ever-affectionate
April, 1735. And half dead servant,

JAMES PARRY.

G 5

X. To

X. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

THY letter put me into a flood of tears; I am sorry thou wert so tortured; but be assured from me it is no more than a quarter of the pain of jealousy. It was unlucky your speaking about the strangers, because it occasioned a few words, which were (the time mamma called me into the kitchen) viz. Don't walk dangling with that fellow. Which I answered hastily, she might be certain I would not be so silly. Then I went into the parlour to put on my hat, and she followed me, and said (angrily) she supposed you would be at Jenny Birch's as soon as I, and that there was no preventing a town-talk of me. Then I, in a great passion, threw off my hat: then she left the room, and I slammed the window, and broke it; but soon put on again my hat, and went: but, O heavens! what a passion mamma went in (as Pen. told me) she changed colour, sometimes red, then white, which made Pen. come to speak to me to bid me come home, which I did; but she would not speak to me; so after a fit of crying, I sent for Mrs. M—se, who came immediately under pretence to ask me to walk, which we did, no farther than Jenny Birch's; but took mamma to the summer-house. Mrs. M—se staid till seven; mamma all the while did not speak twenty words. Then I went up stairs, and

and she talked to Pen. about thee and me, which I was not told ; but that she intended I should go to the Hill to board, which Pen. advised me to do, telling me, I knew mamma would never let me stay from her long. To-day we talked a little freely ; however, I hope it will wear off soon. I am convinced here has been in my absence busy tongues at work : take care how you put letters into the spinnet, for I have often observed mamma to rout it over. I am surprised indeed at your saying, you will go where neither happiness nor misery can have any claim to you, knowing that that cannot be ; for in this world you must meet with one of it ; and if I shall have my wish, it will be happiness. I am certain you have more sense than to have thoughts of shortening your life. I had not time to say more, only watch the time people go to church to-morrow to speak to me. Farewel to-night, thou dearest boy. This paper is wetted with tears ; burn it, for I myself have taught Jenny Birch to read backwards, which confounded me so much at your shewing the direction of your letter yesterday.

Sunday Night.

My Dear, dear Dearest,

The time you appointed last night was too late ; for Pen. being to rise very early to-day, it was impossible for me to stay up so late. I was a-bed at 11, but the last thing

I did was to look out for you, but to no purpose. However, I could not sleep till one o'clock for thinking of you. To-day I saw you were here, by the * dirt on the window, but as I lay the other side of the house, there was no possibility of coming.

XI. To PARTHENISSA.

My lovely Angel,

THE very same hour that you set out from hence, I (in company with Mr. Perkins the attorney) went to Gloucester, where I have had the ring made according to your directions, by which (through the help of a parson) I hope to be made one flesh with you. I have puzzled my brains these three days, in contriving how we shall be married with the utmost secrecy, and at last have thought of an effectual manner. Your brother has two tenants, viz. Cecil G—ge, and James Ed—ds; the one lives about Dingestow, and the other below it. You must come under pretence of dunning them; and as you are passing by Dingestow house, Mr. J—s and his lady (I flatter myself) will ask you to alight, dine with them, &c. there we can assuredly (having the par-

* Whenever I wanted to speak with her at midnight (if I could not awaken her by whistling an Italian tune) I would take a handful of dirt, and fling it at her chamber window, by which method she would often rise from her bed to speak with me.

son and licence ready) be married as private as we can wish for ; and I am positive, that not any thing, excepting your pregnancy (which if you justly judge of my virility, you cannot for any considerable time be a barren woman) can divulge the secret. I beg you will let me hear from you by to-morrow's post, for I am satisfied you are sensible, that you are my heart's darling. I have (my good genius) bought some curious busto's (done in Gloucester) made of a chalkish mortar. They represent Oliver Cromwell, the Chevalier, several popes heads, and the present royal family ; likewise some scarce and valuable medals, which (being neatly finished) I hope will please her whom my soul loves. I would have been with you ere this time ; but I am sensible that my coming to your brother's, would spoil the scheme I have already laid. By your directions, I go daily to your mamma's as usual, lest that by absenting myself, she should mistrust our intrigue. Next post I shall expect an answer ; till then (thou conqueror of my soul) adieu.

From him who will stile himself,

Ross, June
17, 1735.

Eternally yours,
JAMES PARRY.

XII. To PARTHENISSA.

Dear Love,

I wrote to you upon the 17th this instant, acquainting you with our marriage scheme; and at the same time I begged the favour from you of an answer by the return of the post. I really expected one, but the disappointment has in a great degree mortified me. If the affection, which you pretended to have had for me, had been real, you certainly would have answered my letter; and not having heard from you, makes me (almost) imagine, your affection is a pretended one. In my opinion, no scheme can be carried on (provided you are willing) with greater secrecy: therefore, I beg to know your resolutions immediately; for I think it very inconsistent with my present circumstances, and (what is, or at least should be most valuable) my time, to be trifled with in this manner, by your will, and will not. Post is just a going out, so that I have not time to say more, than that (my lovely angel) I am most affectionately yours,

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. I am removed from my old lodgings.

XIII. To

XIII. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

My Dearest, (b)

YOUR kind letter of the 17th instant I received, as also one last night, which I don't well understand; for first you upbraid me with a pretended affection, which I am certain you have had no reason for, but you might have thought who was with me, viz. my maid; and that it was impossible to give a letter to the post unknown to her; but in answer to your first, good God, what shall I say? you know the state of life I am in, and how much I love; but what can I do at this time? we (you well know) cannot live on love alone, and friends will soon look cold on two that they maintain. Besides, for such an adventure, I ought to have some linnen, which at present is quite worn out. I will tell you, my dearest, my mind; there is something in matrimony so shocking, which I cannot account for; it is true, we now love almost to distraction, and so have hundreds that after marriage have lived miserable: You know my intolerable jealous temper, which must be disagreeable; besides, several other failings I have, which makes me of opinion no man will think himself happy with such a wife.—But were I my own mistress, I would soon give you the satisfaction you desire: I have too good an opinion of you, than to imagine you would

would say any thing to my disadvantage, otherwise I should mistrust your having said something, by every body's mistrusting our intrigue; but for God's sake think of all the oaths and promises you made to me, when it was to my ruin, and by all the love we have bore one another, don't expose me, and though I cannot at this time, I will some other, make you (as you call it) happy. I cannot trust the Dingestow family, because I know nothing of them, and hardly ever saw them; not but it is a very good contrivance, were I but a little acquainted with them; but as it is, I hope you have not let them know any thing of the matter: I would not for the world do it at this time, since you say it would not be a secret long; for I am sure I should be murdered. Thou dost, my dearest, know I am good for nothing; and what will thou do with me? I wish I could see thy sister, her advice I would take sooner than any body's. You find I am wavering, and don't know what to do. When you write to me again, do it in these characters, * and direct your letters in another hand, and tell the post-boy you were desired to give them to him, and don't put post-paid to Monmouth. I long to know where you lodge. Take care of my rings till I see you, for it will not be long before I shall come to Ross. I shall not write till Monday, lest the people here mistrust. Methinks I could for-ever
write

write to my dearest; but that time will not permit; so I must conclude, wishing thee all the happiness in this world, and life everlasting in the next, none in the world more affectionately thine.—When you write again, don't scold me so: love me, &c.

XIV. To PARTHENISSA.

My lovely Angel,

YOUR letter came to my hand this moment, and not being willing to lose any time, makes me answer you (perhaps) sooner than you expected. Before I proceed to our main busines, I must my dearest (and do sincerely) beg pardon for being so very imprudent, in telling you in my last, that I thought your affection to me was but pretended; but it was your not answering me so soon as I desired, that put me in a pet. You know that we Welch folks are as fiery as any people whatsoever; so when you consider that, you will easily forgive me, I believe. My angel, if your memory fails you not, you may remember that you consented to my buying the wedding ring at Gloucester; and at the same time gave me the ring that we, some time ago, married each other with, to have the new ring made by; and at the same time assured me (according to your promise in December last) that you would be married to me in a legal manner; and

and before you left Ross, you told me you would leave the management of the affair entirely to me. You seem in your letter to be a stranger to all this; which surprizes me, insomuch that I cannot (being conversant with no other woman) tell what to make of you. I am no stranger to the way of life you are in, and believe you love, and that if you are so inclined, you may marry me in the most private manner, by the method I have proposed. I am positive that we shall never be drove to that stress of living upon love alone; for (if I am married) I shall get a pound where I get a shilling by my business. There is no fear of a reconciliation soon with mamma, as thou art her only child, and I know of enough that will do their good offices between her and us; and should that fail, it would be but giving out that I was going to Carolina or Georgia with thee, and I am positive she would be reconciled, for she would as soon part with her eyes as let thee go out of the country: therefore, thy fears of being murdered, &c. are nothing but mere chimera's. I know of no reason why thou shouldst harbour such thoughts, and be assured from me, that there is no manner of danger in the undertaking; and as for linnen, &c. I beg you would not give yourself any uneasiness about it, for that shall be my care, and I will provide you some immediately. I have (my lovely angel) acquainted

acquainted * Mr. J—s already with our intended marriage, and he, I am persuaded, will do us all the service in his power: likewise Mr. L—s, the attorney (who you know has been my friend on all occasions) for it would be a thing impracticable to carry it on without some friends to assist us; and if you please to meet me at Dingestow, and be married to me, I will return here the same night; so that there cannot be the least suspicion of a marriage, or any thing like it; and when the thing does come to be known (but we may keep it a secret three or four years) it will be but a nine days wonder, and there would be an end on it: but if once you prove pregnant, the marriage must needs be owned; therefore, as I have acquainted my friends (who will be as secret as the night) with it, I hope you will not delay the thing, lest it should breed danger. It would be the wrongest thing imaginable to think of sending for my sister Nancy; for, as I take it, that would be making the matter appear plain in every one's eye; especially since you say that people mistrust our intrigue. I am fully satisfied of your capacity in making any man happy: I do not mean as to your fortune (for I take the Almighty to witness, that I covet nor desire any thing but your person) I wish it had been

* I did not mention any thing of it to Mr. J—s at that time, but told her I had, thinking that she would comply the sooner when she found the thing known.

my

my good fortune to have been born to a large estate, whereby I might have shewn you my sincerity in what I say. I have (my dearest) thoroughly examined myself, and challenged my thoughts, by which I find, nay, I am positive of it, that I shall prove a good husband to you; and though you are naturally jealous (if a fault, it is the only one you have) I will never give the least occasion, by being as I have always been, since our first consummation, as constant to you as the flowing tides are to the moon. You actually promised me marriage, and if you do not fulfil it this week or the next, I solemnly protest that I will immediately go for London or else where, and never see this country any more: if I find myself disappointed, I shall hate the thoughts of it, after having trifled away so much time here to no purpose. I scorn to bully you into marriage, but will leave you to determine what to do; and by your dear self I swear, that unless you expose yourself, your name shall never be prophaned by me. I therefore beg, that you will not give yourself any uneasiness, nor harbour so ill an opinion of me. The post-boy is faithful, and in order to keep him so, I have given him my orange-coloured waistcoat, accompanied with a handsome spill. He is known by the name of lord Farnaby. Mr. Herbert and I differed about the price of my lodgings, for I thought them too dear;

and

and notwithstanding I had paid him eleven pounds last Christmas, in full of all demands, he was for collecting his rent before the following Midsummer: however, I paid him, and have since taken fresh lodgings in the back part of Mr. S—'s house. The post-boy waits for me on horseback, so that I have not time to say more, than that I am, with sincerity (my lovely angel)

Your most affectionate,

Ross, June
23, 1735.

And devoted Servant,

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. I have bought a new suit of clothes, trimmed with silver, in order to appear genteel before the parson, &c. I beg an answer to this letter on Wednesday.

XV. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

My dear dearest, (a)

JAMES, the post, brought thy dear letter safe unto me upon Monday night: I heartily wish that thou hadst said nothing of our affair to Mr. J—s or Mr. L—s; but as it is it cannot be help'd; I hope they will keep the secret, for do what I can, I must (I find) now marry thee, for two strong reasons; First, that if I don't, thou wilt leave me; and in that thou dost tyrannize a little too

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too much, for thou dost know, that it is worse than death to be without thee. But the second reason shocks me more, and that is, I have not had the

[redacted], (and I wonder how I could forget to mention it in my last) so that I am mightily afraid that I have thy dear image in my body; not that I shall be ashamed of the father of it: therefore, my dearest, I will comply with thy desire in marrying thee, in a legal manner, as thou dost call it; but, for God's sake, beg of Mr. J—s to get an honest parson; and if I should not prove with child, after we are married this week, I will beg of thee, and I am sure thou wilt not deny me any thing, not to lie with me but now and then, in order to keep our marriage a secret as long as possible; and I protest that I would not lie with thee all night in bed for a thousand pounds, unless mamma was dead or reconciled to us; for I am sure that thou wouldest make thyself a father and me a mother soon. But, good God, why do I talk so silly, when I am, I'm afraid, a breeding already. For God's sake, my dear, make all the haste you can to me; I am almost frightened to death; so now my dear spouse (for I am sure you think yourself so) adieu.

From thy fond and doating

Lan—lo,
Wednesday, June
25, 1735.

PARTHENISSA.

XIV. To

XVI. TO PARTHENISSA.

Madam,

I Never, since the hour of my nativity, looked so much like a fool as I do at present. How shall I be able to look Mr. J—s in the face, after my giving so uncommon a trouble to no purpose. My eyes (I thank heaven) are now opened, whereby I plainly see, that you have kept me in the country only for your diversion. Your telling Mrs. J—s that you never would marry without your mamma's consent, plainly shews it. I own, there is a duty incumbent upon children to their parents; but yet the happiness of our lives depends upon our own choice, and in my opinion, no one can be properer than yourself to fix upon an husband. I find (and not without torture) I am not to be the happy man, and that you are averse to a marriage with me, notwithstanding your vows and protestations to the contrary. I am really afraid, that you will be very apt to pay dearly in the end for fooling of me. I now think myself your equal, and you most certainly have made me so, by accepting of my sincere affections and addresses. Therefore, do not imagine that your fortune shall skreen you from my resentment of your base usage. I will take a particular care of your letters, which are as records,

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records, and shall rise up in judgment against you. As for the gold you bid me take, that will I keep to defray my expences to London, tho' I own 'tis worse than death to part with you; but since it must be so (dear Charmer) I bid you an eternal adieu.

Yours till and after death,

Dingestow,
Wednesday Morn.

JAMES PARRY.

1735.

XVII. To Mr. PARRY.

I Would have given the world (were it mine) that I had staid at home yesterday. Good God, what can Mrs. J—s, who is a perfect stranger to me, think of either of us. I was very much surprized to see you in such a passion after all the protestations to the contrary, that you made me here last Saturday night. If you loved me, as you say you do, you would hardly affront me. As Mrs. J—s knows all, I'll take her advice, and only her's in every thing. Let me know next post if you'll let me have the money, or no: else I must go soon to Ross to fetch some of my own, for I can't be here without any. My sincere love and service to good Mrs. J—s (for I find you are there still.) So now adieu.

I wish I were a fly, to see if you shew this to any one. I must I find take care how I write,

write, since I am threatened by you; it once was otherwise. I have not time to say more at present, or I'd scold you.

XVII. To Mrs. J—s.

Dear Madam,

I Received your obliging letter by Mr. Parry, and shall always study to preserve your friendship; and if it e'er lies in my power to make you amends for your good offices between him and myself, no one shall be more willing, than,

Madam, your most devoted

humble Servant,

PARTHENISSA.

XIX. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

THE letter you wrote for Mr. Porter, was imparted to me, and I have (with the greatest desire to serve you) been at Doctors-Commons, and find it is impossible to buy a licence, without an affidavit from one of the parties concerned. My boy, I wish you all the success imaginable in your undertaking, and if upon further reflection you can tell how I can be serviceable to you, I will do it by G——d. I am,

Yours to command,

Lond. July 24, 1735.

VOL. II.

W——L——s.

H

XX. To

XX. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

Dear Jemmy,

I Received yours of the 26th past, and I assure you that I have made the best enquiry about what you desired ; but I find it is impossible to obtain it. As this is an affair of great consequence, I think you might find some excuse for leaving Ross for 8 or 9 days, and in that time, you might come up here, and have it effected according to your desire, and be down again without the least suspicion. Mr. L—s knows as well as any body, that an affidavit in this case must absolutely be given ; and that it is not in the power of any clergyman to grant one under less terms. I thought she was the person you mentioned in your last, and if it was in my power to be any way assisting, I should be as zealous in it, as if it was my own affair. I hope to see you in 14 days time, but I should be glad to hear how you proceed by the first post, and what your resolutions are. My humble service to Mr. L—s, and I am sincerely your friend and servant,

Lond. July 31, 1735.

W M. L—s.

P. S. Mr. P—r gives his service to you, and wishes you success.

XXI. To

XXI. To Mr. PARRY.

My Dearest, (c)

IT is not to be imagined how surprized and sorry I was, to see you at the Ship. I hope you don't use that house, nor indeed the neighbourhood. Be constant and true to me, and keep all my things safe untill I see you, which I hope will be soon. I cannot tell you the grief I am in, to find you writ to Betty R—s so scolding a letter. Mrs. P—ps, when we were alone, told me all (and indeed nothing but the truth) concerning Dingestow affair. I wish the housekeeper and the parson's tongue had been out: take all the care imaginable in writing to me. You must desire Pen. when she writes to me, that she will remember me of the song I promised to send you, and you must desire no more than a verse at a time, because I am a woman of business. (* My Time O ye Muses) I have not time to say more. I am entirely yours, &c. &c. &c.

P. S. Desire Mr. Parry to write out Lonzineigh's for the flute. †

* A song in one of the Spectators.

† That sentence was written with ink.

XXII. To PARTHENISSA.

My Lovely Angel, (c)

THINE I received, by the method agreed upon between us. I am sorry to think, that thou wert surprized to see me at the Ship; and believe me, I never frequented that house or neighbourhood, since the time that thou wert jealous of the Jersey spinner. Neither would I have been there the fatal day that I parted with thee, had it not been for the servants, who came to fetch thee: and I thought it my duty to treat them well, for thy dear sake. Therefore give thyself no manner of uneasiness, for (by the love I bear thee) I never will darken those doors. I am (my Phoenix) as much concerned as you can be, concerning the letter I have sent to Betty R—s; but what is past, cannot be recalled. I am at a loss to guess who should tell Mary P—s (of our Dingestow adventure) unless it was Jacob: I believe him to be a fly D---g; but I dare take upon me to say, that the house-keeper, nor the parson, never mentioned a syllable of it. I wish thou hadst proved with child at that time; then thou wouldest have married me, and the nine days wonder would soon have been at an end. I will take all the care imaginable of thy rings, and will never give thee an occasion to doubt my constancy and affection.

First,

First, shall the heav'n's bright lamp forget to shine,
 The stars shall from the azur'd sky decline;
 First, shall the orient with the west shake hand,
 The centre of the world shall cease to stand;
 First wolves shall league with lambs, the dolphins fly,
 The lawyer and physician fees deny;
 First heaven shall lie below, and hell above,
 Ere I inconstant to my M—y prove.

My charmer, I heartily wish, that there was a chrystral casement in my breast, through which thou couldst see, without any deception of sight, how truly I am, and how entirely, thy most affectionate and ever constant

JAMES PARRY.

Ross, Aug. 11, 1735.

P. S. You know how deeply I am in love, and it is impossible for me to be without you long; therefore (my dearest) do not delay coming to my embraces.

XXIII. To PARTHENISSA.

My Lovely Girl, (c)

I Should not have written to thee so soon, had I not had an opportunity of sending thee a tune, which I have set to the words made upon lady Diana Bertie for the flute. I

H 3 have

have, my angel, had a strong invitation, from a particular friend of mine, to come to Hereford, in order to see the horse-races ; but I was willing to acquaint my fair one of it, before I set out. I shall not stay there above two or three days ; so am in hopes my being there will be no way disagreeable to thee. Rest satisfied that I will not salute any woman there, for thy dear sake.

Thy image only shall my breast employ,
And fill my captiv'd soul with shades of joy ;
Direct my dreams by night, my thoughts by
day ;
And never, never, from my bosom stray.
It is thou alone that art my constant care,
In pleasing dreams thou comfort'st my def-
pair ;
And makes the night, that does thy form
convey,
Welcome to me above the fairest day.

I burn to see thee ; therefore come to Ross upon the 17th of this month, or thereabouts ; and I will most certainly be here, in expectation of thee. I am heartily concerned for thy simplicity, in asking thy mamma to come to Monmouthshire ; because something tells me, that her being there will dash our amour to pieces unless we are timely married ; but be assured from me, we never shall have a fairer opportunity, than when at Dingestow. I have not time to say more, than that I am (thou charmer of my soul)

soul) thy ever-constant and affectionate (husband in effect)

Ros, Aug. 12, 1735.

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. If thou dost not come to me, at the time I have appointed, I shall leave thee for some weeks.

XXIV. To Mr. P A R R Y.

The 2d Chapter of Solomon's Song.

I.

AS when in Sharon's field the blushing rose,
Does its chaste bosom to the morn disclose,
Whilst all around the zephyrs bear
The fragrant odours through the air :
Or as the lilly in the shady vale,
Does o'er each flower with beauteous pride
prevail ;
And stands with dews, and kindest sun-shine
blest,
In fair pre-eminence superior to the rest ;
So if my love, with happy influence, shed
His eyes bright sun-shine on his lover's head ;
Then shall the rose of Sharon's field,
And whitest lillies to my beauties yield ;
The roses with the lillies join,
And their united charms are less than mine.

II.

As much as fairest lillies can surpass
 A thorn in beauty, or in height the grass ;
 So does my love among the virgins shine,
 Adorned with graces more than half divine :
 Or as a tree, that's glorious to behold,
 Is hung with apples all of ruddy gold,
 Hesperian fruit, and beautifully high,
 Extends its branches to the sky ;
 So does my love the virgin's eyes invite ;
 'Tis he alone can fix their wand'ring sight,
 Among ten thousands eminently bright. }

I really am so tired with writing, that I can write no more ; but if none of your acquaintance has the Spectators, I will, when I have more time, finish these verses ; but here is now enough to keep you from idleness, so hasten to make a tune to it : it is writ so bad that I must desire you will burn it, as soon as you have writ it out.

N. B. Thus far was written with ink, but that which follows with lemon juice.

My dear, I received thine, but with what confusion, heaven knows ; for my mamma being with me last night, when the post brought thy dear letter, which I no sooner opened but was ready to faint ; but was glad to see Pen. P—ll's name at the bottom. Mamma asked me if it was thine hand, which

which I denied. I have not read it yet ; keep all my things safe till I see you, which I hope will be soon. I writ last Saturday to thee, and once before, which is all the times I have since the fatal day of our parting. When I heard you were at Monmouth, I was very uneasy, because I writ as you desired me, so I thought you would have been at Ross.

My dear, say you cannot have this song any where else. I long to see thee, my dear ; Wednesday or Thursday is our reaping day, so cannot come then, but about 8 days I will if possible. I cannot imagine your business at Hereford horse-race ; I wish I was with you ; but pray don't go, for I shall take the first opportunity to come to Ross ; and as my stay will not be long, so watch it.

I desire you will kiss this paper, for it lay near my breast two hours to-day. I wish Pen. has not found out our grand secret, by your being so silly as to be out of town when I writ to you. I was in little hopes of seeing you here, in your road to Abergavenny.

The above I writ yesterday to my dear, and as I cannot see it I have forgot. I am hardly able to support the melancholy this dull place has put me in, with your dismal letter of parting, and the Lord knows what. Oh ! my full heart and eyes, which are now ready to burst. Oh ! love ! love ! has been my ruin. Mamma wonders that Pen. writes so often by post, therefore don't do it but

now and then. Saturday depend upon a letter from me : I long to see thee, my dear boy ! I need not caution you how no one shall see this. It was an unlucky moment that you wrote to Betty R—s, as you told her, no one but she could tell Dingestow affairs ; it is shocking to me to hear thee termed a rogue in that business, and as much as the mask is talked of. Oh ! that sorry house-keeper. Poor Mr. J—s and his wife are as ill thought of as you.

I am Yours most affectionately,

PARTHENISSA.

XXV. To P A R T H E N I S S A.

I Was booted, spurred, and just going for Hereford, when Pen. gave me thy dear letter and verses. I find in thine that thou art averse to my going to Hereford ; and to let thee see the regard I have for thee, I have pulled off my boots, &c. and deferred my journey. I promised myself a great deal of pleasure by being there ; but be assured from me, I will sacrifice the most agreeable diversions this life can afford me (if they are any way disagreeable to thee) to comply with any thing my Parthenissa would have me do. I assure my fair one, that I have not been out of Ross since she left it ; therefore if you writ to Pen. she never acquainted me of it ; and

and whoever told my angel that I was in Abergavenny, did wrong; for I have not seen that town, since the time that I was blest with thy company there. I am sorry to hear that thou art so melancholy, and wish for nothing more than to be with thee, my better half. I may sympathize with my dearest, in saying, love! love! has been my ruin. From the time my soul has been captivated by thy matchless charms, I have not done any thing (neither indeed can I) besides thinking of thy dear, dear self. I conjure my angel, by all the ties of love and friendship betwixt us, that thou wouldest fly to my embraces; for it is a thing impossible, for one that loves as I do, to be any considerable time distant from the real object of his wishes. How I have loved,

Witness ye days, and nights, and all your hours,

That danc'd away with down upon your feet,
As all your busnels were to count my passion.
One day pass'd by, and nothing saw but love,
Another came, and still it was only love;
The sun was wearied out with looking on,
And untired with loving.

I saw you all the day, and every day,
To me, each day was still but as the first,
So eager am I yet to see you more.

I wish what I am going to write may not be disagreeable to my pretty Poll? I have

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This moment received a letter from one miss Kitty G—n, of Newport; wherein she tells me, she has an inclination to be instructed in music by me, and wants to know how much I will take each journey; and she tells me I was recommended to her by miss W—e of Monmouth; whether it was miss P—ā, or miss R—c—l I know not: however, I will go down this week to Newport, and teach her. I propose to be out no longer than three days. But be thou (my fair one) assured from me, that if miss G—n should prove (which I think impossible) as beautiful as thyself, it never shall be in her power to attract my eyes from thee who art my very soul. I have told thee that what is past concerning Betty R—s's letter cannot be recalled. You tell me that the neighbourhood term me a rogue, for carrying on a match (which they imagine) between Mr. J—n J—s and you. Their using me thus, is quite the reverse to give me uneasiness, for I am pleased with it, because that report makes our affair the snugger, especially since thy mamma is satisfied to the contrary. I believe thy aunt J—s to be at the head of this report, as well as of several others, to thy knowledge as well as mine.

May she by worms be in old age devour'd,
And by all mortals, as by me, abhor'd.

'So much for her carotty pate. But I would, for their own sakes, advise them to have

have a regard to what they say of Mr. J—s; he is well known to be a gentleman; one that never offers an affront, and I am positive he will not take one, from any one breathing. I should be glad if thou would part with me, whilst I might go to London, and buy a licence; that was what I meant, by parting with thee for some short time in a former letter; however, I will be governed by thee, and no one else.

I am,

My Dearest Lovely Angel,

Thy most Constant and Affectionate

Ross, Aug. 14, 1735.

JAMES PARRY.

N. B. About the time that this letter was written, there was a report that I carried letters from Mr. J—s's brother to Parthenissa; although to my knowledge he hardly ever saw her, but never spoke or writ to her.

XXVI. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

My Dearest Dear, (a)

I Received thy letter, and am now fully satisfied that thou hast a tender regard for me, by not going to Hereford horse-race; for if you had gone there, I should indeed be jealous of the haberdasher's daughter, that I have heard thee so often make mention of, when

when thou didst use to joke with me. I do assure thee, my lovely boy, that I will comply with any thing thou shalt ask of me, but going to London. That I never will consent to, unless I was with thee; for I know thee to be very amorous when a little in liquor. We can (my dearest) and will be married very soon, one way or another; therefore be not uneasy upon that score. I know thee to be full of love, and that thou cannot be without a woman long: so to prevent thy going astray, I will quickly come to Ross, and keep thee honest. I beg (my dearest) to know who the young lady you made mention of in your's is; I mean as to her family; let me know whether she is handsome or not, whether she sings well or not, and lastly, what is her height, shape, air, and complexion. I hope thou wilt not take this as an impertinent enquiry, but answer me sincerely, for thou art no stranger to my temper. I have told thee before, that our reaping day is nigh, and the moment we have done, then I (with as much extacy, as thou hadst eagerness to deprive me of my virginity) will fly into thy dear arms with pleasure. As I write this letter in characters, I cannot, you know, be so particular as I could wish. So I conclude with these lines, which if they were made on purpose for us, they could not be more à propos; but, now I consider, they will be too long for this letter, especially in characters; so I will write them

them upon a blank half-sheet, with lemon juice, in a letter that I shall write to Pen. this week. Pray write to me in the same manner, between the lines in a tune that you must send me for the flute. No more at present, thou best beloved of men, but that I am thine most affectionately.

Lan --io; Aug. 16, 1735.

PARTHENISSA.

P. S. Pray go to our house as usual, lest by absenting Pen. should mistrust.

XXVII. To PARTHENISSA.

My Dear Angel, (b)

I Was at Newport when thy delightful letter came here, and would have called upon thee with pleasure, but that we agreed to have an interview here. First, in answer to thine concerning miss G—n. She is a clergyman's daughter of N—h, a town in Glamorganshire; and, together with her father and mother, boards at Mrs. G—n's, who formerly was housekeeper, to sir W—m M—n of T—r. The young lady is a little taller than Nancy Dew; she is airy, well shaped, grey eyed, and has a little wen upon her right eye-brow; her hair is of a light brown, and is (by what I can hear and see) qualified to make any man happy. But when I consider thee, whose form surpasses the beautiful Circassian's, thy bewitching,

soft

soft and glorious blue eyes, where the soul speaks and dances, and betrays love's secrets in every killing glance ; a face where every motion, every feature sweetly languishes ; a neck all tempting, and thy lovely breast inviting kisses from my eager lips ; then thy hands, such clasping arms, so white, so soft and slender, which have so often clasped me ; but above all, thy lovely hair and limbs must not be forgot ; when (and in fact I do nothing else) I think of the beauties of thy body and mind, it is not in the power of miss G — n, or any female, to steal one thought of thee from me.

I long to fold thy body in my longing arms !
To gaze upon thy eyes, my happier stars !
While every sigh come forth so fraught with
sweets,

'Tis incense to be offer'd to a God.
The vernal bloom and fragrancy of spices,
Wafted by gentle winds, are not like thee.
From thee, as from the Cyprian queen of
love,
Ambrosial odours flow ; my ev'ry faculty
Is charm'd by thee, and drinks immortal
pleasure.

Why then, O thou blessing sent from
heaven to ease my toils of life ! thou sacred
dear delight of my fond doating heart, why
dost thou not fly to my embraces ?

Whilst

Whilst I was at Newport, the widow W— of the A— came there, to pay a visit to Mrs. J—s (miss W—e's sister) and sent for me. I waited upon her, and (after I had sung her a song or two) she assured me, she would learn both to play and sing of me, and would send for her spinnet from London; and as soon as it came, she would send for me, to the—. I hear, as well as others, several things said, &c. So that I shall not do any thing, but by thy constant directions. But to our own affair. As you say in your last dear letter, that you are satisfied that I have a just regard for you, why don't you come to me, especially since you know that I cannot be long without you. I have often told thee, there is nothing that I desire more than thy dear self; and I never wish'd for any thing more, than to have thee my lawful wife. Thou dost, my dearest, know, that I have no estate to settle upon thee: I would to heaven I had — that I suppose is the reason, why thou dost wave the one, but refusest not the other. I will with pleasure (my dearest) if you think proper, have writings drawn, and will readily sign them; whereby you shall be mistress of your fortune, after marriage: so that you may settle it upon whom you please. In my opinion nothing can be more plain than that I covet yourself, and not your fortune. I hope to have my doom one way or the other very soon. I would not for the world deceive

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ceive thee, and I have too good an opinion of thee, to think that thou wilt trifle with me, and am sure thou can't not call my love in question.

That I do love thee, O all you host of heaven

Be witness ! that you are dear to me !

Dearer than day to one whom sight must leave,

Dearer than life to one who fears to die !

O thou bright power be judge, whom we adore,

Be witness of my truth ! be witness of my love !

— — — Dear as the light

To eyes but just rector'd, and heal'd of blindness.

That I do love thee, heav'n's witness to the truth,

As I could love prosperity with youth.

Why then does not my angel hasten to my arms, for my memory runs continually upon thee. Thy lovely idea fills up, and ingrosses my imagination, that I can think of nothing else. Let me despair if I lye. Therefore (my lovely girl) make haste and come to me, and tantalize me no longer by staying from me ; for a sight of thee will be more precious to me, than all the curiosities and diversions in the world. Hasten then to the arms

(thou

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(thou ever present to the heart) of thine eternally.

Ros, August
19th, 1735.

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. Give my compliments to Bunny Brown, and tell her, I will use her unmercifully the first time I catch hold of her, &c.

XXVIII. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

(c)

TO thee I send, my dear, dear Jemmy this,

Joy of my soul, and my heart's only bliss !
To thee this short epistle I commend,
Kindly receive it from thy blushing friend ;
For who from blushing can refrain, when she
Thinks on the time she was seduc'd like me ?
My breast, you said, began to pant and rise ;
Pleasing my shape, and killing were my eyes :
With pleasure then around you spread my fame,

And sighing wish'd for — what I dare not name.

These were the prelude to our future joy :
Then you more forward grew, and I less coy ;
Your balmy words, as Hybla's honey sweet,
My fond believing heart leap'd up to meet.
Deep in my heart your image keeps its place,
Which time, nor yet enjoyment can deface.
How happy should I be, if sure that mine
Was rivetted but half so deep in thine.
When first incircled in your arms I lay,
I blest the night, and curs'd the coming day.

My

My virgin treasure was a world to me,
And I the victim sacrific'd to thee.
This was, alas! my poor unhappy case,
When I deluded was to your embrace :
With transports I receiv'd your amorous
kisses,
And gave what lovers call, the bliss of blisses.
We neither love, nor burn with common fire,
Ours is the mere prefection of desire.
Unless we love, life's but an empty name,
'Twas love that join'd the universal frame.
To me your heart, and mine to you I gave,
And both possess'd, what both had wish'd to
have.
The generous path of friendship then pursue,
You live for me, and I live but for you.
Angels love souls : so let them love for me :
As mortal, we must all like mortals be ;
Their love is pure, and mine more un-
confin'd ;
I love the body, they love but the mind :
Mine more intense and active sure must be,
Since I gave soul and body both to thee.
Judge, my dear Jemmy, sure you must judge
right,
What pass'd between us the first happy night,
I felt you with a pleasing kind of smart,
The kiss went tingling to my very heart,
The sweetness cling'd upon my lips all day,
When it was gone, the sense behind did stay.
Love has no cure. True love can never cloy,
We covet more, when more we do enjoy.

Love

Love couples friends, love's chain our body
ties;

With pleasure then our hearts we sacrifice.
Such sweets by death alone can be destroy'd :
Bodies were made that they might be enjoy'd.
Sense is enough, where senses only woo,
But reas'ning lovers, must have reason too.

Tell me, my dearest Jemmy, is not this
The quintessence, the honey-moon of bliss :
When, to compleat our happiness, combine
Our bodies, and as close as lips they join ?
Why should we for each other fear to die,
When heaven commands, encrease and mul-
tiply ?

Then, like the phoenix, we'll revive again,
And often die, but never feel the pain.

If ever I perceive my flame decay,
And when at first you find yours fade away,
Then kindly come, and light your eyes at
mine,

And I'll with pleasure take fresh fires at thine.
In all I'm pleas'd, but most in what was best ;
And the last joy was dearer than the rest.

Then with each word, each glance, each
motion fir'd,

You still enjoy'd, and yet you still desir'd :
'Till all dissolving in the trance we lay,
And in tumultuous raptures dy'd away.

By charms like thine, which all my soul
have won,
Who might not — ah ! who would not be
undone.

My

My Dear, Dear Jemmy,

I have writ these verses so small, that I am afraid thou canst hardly read them. They were writ by several hands, but sent by a countess to her Polyarchus. I had not room to put them all in this paper. Her affair was so like ours, that I was resolved to send them to my dearest. But to answer thy dear letter, I cannot help saying, that I am a little uneasy at thy teaching miss G——n ; but being assured, that no one besides my self, can have any share in thy heart, that on the other hand makes me a little easy ; but by all the love we have borne one another (I insist upon it) thou shalt not teach Mrs. W —. You know what a character she has ; it was but the other day, that after she had been lying with Mr. — of — she left some steel powder behind her ; which people say, she takes to prevent quickening with child, and indeed sometimes I am so frightened, that I wish I had some too. But my dear, if you love me, you will not teach her upon any account. I will come within these few days to Ross to thee ; don't be out of the way ; and since thou art so eager, I will comply with thy desire in any thing that thou dost ask of me ; not but that I will scold at thee, for saying that I do waver, &tc but we love each other, and have been for a long time sure of our honey-moon ; I had not room to say

say more, only I am thy most affectionate
and sincere

Lan.-io Aug. 21, 1735.

PARTHENISSA.

P. S. Mamma says that Pen. is afraid of
losing us, by her writing so often. Bunny
Brown, as thou dost call it, is very well, and
bids thee defiance; but there has been no
inundation this long time.

XXIX. To PARTHENISSA.

My Dear Girl, (c)

I TOOK thy lovely letter this day from
Pen. but not without some difficulty. I
am really afraid, that she begins to mistrust
our intrigue, by her not shewing me any of
thy letters as usual. It was my good luck
to take thine this day by main force from
her; so that (I believe) some new method of
corresponding must be thought upon, and
that speedily.

I have (thou lovely angel) often told thee,
that thy will shall be my law; therefore am
surprised that thou shouldest be uneasy, con-
cerning Mrs. W—; and since I find thee
averse to my teaching her music, no money
shall tempt me to wait upon her. Thou art
sensible that I value thy love more than
riches. To satisfy thy doubts, I never will
speak to her if possibly I can avoid it; the
two

two lines that we have often alternately repeated, are ever in my memory.

My life, my soul, my all that heav'n can give,
Death's life with thee, without thee death to live.

Therefore, I insist upon thy coming to Ross this week. I am sure if thou art so inclined, no one will be thy hindrance. I have often (my dear, and you very well know it) proposed honourable marriage to you, and you have as often declined it; but what is your reason for delaying it, I know not; you very well know that delays breeds danger? I now am in a very good way of getting money; but how much more should I be, if I was married. Music masters, as well as dancing masters, never can expect an handsome livelihood, until they are joined in wedlock? this (my pretty one) is the case with most, if not all of us. It is no new thing for a young fellow, of a genteel profession, to marry a young lady of fine accomplishments; neither is it uncommon for a girl of fortune to chuse herself an husband. I think my self (at present) above the degree of a journeyman mechanick, or a person that condescends to wear a livery; and yet, I have read in the publick papers, of the latter sort who have kicked up their young mistresses heels, whereby they have cut an handsome figure in the world. I own

No

No flocks have I, no fleecy care,
No fields that wave their golden grain ;
No pastures green, or gardens fair,
A woman's venal heart to gain :
Then all in vain, my sighs must prove,
Whose whole estate, alas ! is love.
How wretched is the faithful youth,
Since women's hearts are bought and sold ;
They ask no vows of sacred truth,
Whene'er they sigh, they sigh for gold :
Gold can the frowns of scorn remove ;
Thus am I scorn'd—who have but love.—
To buy the gems of India's coast,
What wealth, what riches could suffice ?
Yet India's shore could never boast,
The lustre of thy rival eyes :
For there, the world too cheap must prove,
Can I then buy,—who have but love ?
Then M—y, since nor gems, nor ore,
Can with thy brighter self compare ;
Be just as fair, and value more
Then gems, or ore, a heart sincere :
Let treasure meaner beauties prove,
Who pays thy worth, must pay in love.

My angel may wonder, how I came to be so poetically inclined ; *the only reason I can give is this. Being (worse than death) debarred of thy dear self, I cannot do any thing, excepting I pore now and then into some books. I often meet with passages of the foregoing nature, which seem to point

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at me; so that I cannot help transmitting them to my fair one? M—t M—n, the flax-woman, waits for me, so that I cannot have time to say much more. If you have any regard for me, you will either come over to me in three days, or write me a line, and send it to-morrow.

Yours to Eternity,

Ross, Aug. 21, 1735.

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. Why can't you send by James the post-man, and order him to deliver them to my lord Farnaby (as formerly) who will most assuredly bring any thing safe to me. I know him to be trusty.

XXX. To PARTHENISSA.

My Dear, (c)

PEN. P—'s sending a bundle of cloaths to Monmouthshire, gave me an opportunity of backing my last letter sooner I believe than you expected. I sent you a letter dated the 21st instant, which was the same day that I was favoured with your last. I begged in mine to see, or at least hear from you this week; I promised myself the happiness of one or the other; but alas! my hopes, have been frustrated. I cannot help telling you in plain English, that by your seeming indifference, neglect, contempt, or call

call it what you please, I imagine that you have met with some new face, which (I am afraid) you are fond of. If so, I must tell you, that I am not used so well as I have deserved. You cannot be insensible, but I have sacrificed every thing that should have been valuable in me, in pleasing of you. If you are inclinable to part with me, let me instantly know it, and nothing on my side shall be wanting, to compleat your happiness in any manner whatever. I gave you to understand in my last, that I spent some time in Reading during your tedious absence; so meeting with a passage, that hit me slap in the face; I am resolved to send it to you.

The night's black curtain o'er the world was spread,

And all mankind lay emblems of the dead.

A deep and awful silence, void of light,

With dusky wings sat brooding o'er the night.

The rowling orbs mov'd slow from East to West,

With harmony that lull'd the world to rest.

The moon withdrawn, the ouzy floods lay dead:

The very influence of the moon was fled.

Some twinkling stars that through the clouds did peep,

Seeming to wink as if they wanted sleep.

All nature hush'd, as when dissolv'd and laid In silent Chaos 'ere the world was made.

Only the beating of the lovers breast,
Made noise enough to keep his eyes from rest.
His little world, not like the greater lay,
In loudest tumults of disorder'd day.

His sun of beauty shone, to light his breast,
With all its various toils and labours prest.
The sea of passion in his working soul,
Rais'd by the tempest of his sighs did roll,
In tow'ring floods to overwhelm the whole.
Those tyrants of the mind, vain hope and
fear,

That still by turns usurp an empire there,
Now raising man on high, then plunging in
despair.

Thus Jemmy lies, his grief no rest affords,
'Till swelling high, it thus burst out in words:
Oh ! I could curse all womankind but one,
And yet my griefs proceed from her alone.
Hell's greatest curse a woman if unkind,
Yet heav'n's great blessing if she loves, we
find.

Thus our chief joys with most allays are curst,
And our best things when once corrupted
worst.

But heaven is just, ourselves the idols fram'd,
And are for such vain worship justly damn'd.
Thus the poor lover argu'd with his fate,
His Molly's charms now did his love create,
That love repuls'd, now prompted him to
hate.

Sometimes

Sometimes his arms wou'd cross his bosom
rest,

Hugging her lovely image printed in his
breast;

Where flattering painter fancy shew'd his art,
In charming draughts, his pencil Cupid's dart.
The shadow drawn, so lively did appear,
As made him think the real substance there.
He thought her naked, soft, and yielding
waist

Within his pressing arms was folded fast;
Nay, in her charms she really there was
plac'd.

Else, how could pleasure to such raptures flow;
The effect was real,—then the cause was so.
What more can most substantial pleasure
boast,

Than joy when present, memory when past?
Then bliss is real which the fancy frames,
Or those call'd real joys, are only dreams.

You may see by this letter, and others of mine, that you are my constant thought and care; but I will intrude no longer upon your time, because (as you have writ me word in a former letter) you are a woman of business, so I take my leave, subscribing myself with fidelity, your oblig'd and ever constant

Ross, Sat. 23, Aug. 1735.

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. I intend setting out for Newport on Tuesday next, to teach miss G—n. I

I 3

have

have sent you the tune, that I did set to Sharon's rose, and Sic arò si, both for the flute.

XXXI. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

(c)

I Durst not call thee dear, since thou art so ungenerous as to think I am fond of new faces. I am sure I never gave thee occasion to have that mean opinion of me; but it was what I always feared, and so I have told you. Heaven knows my heart, how sincere it is: but my misfortune is, that the two I strive most to please, suspect me most, viz. Mamma and you. All that I can say is, that I am unhappy to the last degree, and am often tempted to put an end to so miserable a life as mine is: with tears I speak, not that I would have you think this to wheedle with thee, for I would have every one imagine, I am not that mean thing. When you rightly consider it, you will not blame me I presume. I had your letters it is true, but had not time to send an answer, nor opportunity to scorch. I have hardly two minutes alone. Your Monday's letter I received, but what was I the near; I could come at no fire 'till Wednesday. I hope you have had what I writ to you; this being the 5th time since our coming here. I must beg you will not send by the post, for the first I received put me in such a confusion, that I was forced to go out of the room. And I could

could not own to mamma, that it was you that writ it, though Pen's name, was at the bottom; but last night I was forced, being I had just received the bundle. She is a little angry with thee, and said I was always sending for something or other, which made people talk so much of us. She does not know that I have had a tune from thee. I have been forced to wait 4 days for an opportunity to scorch thy letters, so you cannot be angry with me upon that score. But I fear you will ruin all by writing so often. You may depend on't, it was not my fault that I did not come to Ross, before this time. The first moment mamma will give me leave, I will take it with no small pleasure. I fancy it will be soon, for she said to day, my gown would be spoil'd if it was not soon robed. We only wait to have a London letter first, as we expect from my brother soon. And you know it would not be well to do the thing you mention (marriage) the time of his coming; so it must be done either before, or after. So now my dear, I have writ over my paper some way or other; so must conclude; not but I could forever write to thee, my dearest dear. I have something hangs upon my spirits so heavy which I am not used to, that I am really afraid, I shall either lose my sences or life. Therefore it is barbarous to use me so rough as you do. After I have been thinking of thee, I often in the midst lose my memory.

I wish I was with thee, thou shouldest soon be convinced I am not fond of new faces. My dearest boy, I was afraid of somewhat, but now I have [REDACTED]

From thy fond

PARTHENISSA.

Lant—io Aug. 24 and 25, 1735.

Being busy, I have been two half days writing this letter.

N. B. The gentleman that wrote me the letters XIX and XX (who is at this time a merchant in Birmingham) saw Pen P — give the letter, which I scorched in his presence ; but did not let him read the conclusion, till 15 months after it was dated.

XXXII. To Mr. J — b G — e.

Honest J — b.

THERE is a gentleman near Newport, who has an inclination to learn the violin ; he wants both a master and an instrument ; you know I am no dab at a fiddle, but will venture to teach him the gamut, and will supply him with music. If you have e'er a good violin to dispose of, write me a line on Saturday next, directed to me, at the King's Head ; but I had rather you would give me the meeting there, because

In thee since I have center'd all my joys,
 O Venus! let my love be still my choice.
 Heav'n knows, dear girl, I love no other fair;
 In thee lies all my love, my heav'n lies there.
 Oh! may I, by indulgent fate's decree,
 With thee lead all my life, and die with thee.

I have bought a little Welch horse, but
 repent my bargain, for I am almost as able
 to carry him, as he can me; but I can sell
 him to advantage. I shall return to Ross in
 three days, and if that thou dost not come
 to me, don't think it impossible for me to
 fall in love with a pretty young girl, whom
 I have lately stol'n a glance from. My dear
 dearest, pardon my jesting, and believe me
 to be with sincerity thy eternal adorer,

JAMES PARRY.

XXXIII. To PARTHENISSA.

My Lovely Angel, (b)

Y O U know what money I brought out
 with me. I have paid a barber what
 I owed him out of that, and shall want
 money to clear myself here, before I come
 to Ross; which shall be to-morrow (God
 willing) for I long to be in thy arms. Send
 me a guinea by my lord Farnaby, this even-
 ing, by which thou wilt oblige him who
 loves thee dearer than his eyes, and aims at
 nothing upon earth, more than that of sub-

scribing himself, my lovely angel, thy constant and affectionate spouse,

King's Head, Monmouth,
Sat. 13, Sept. 1735.

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. Lord Gage's eldest son danc'd with miss Alice C—ke, and Mr. * Tommy C—d with miss B—d of Cowberry. I have not seen any great beauties here.

XXXIV. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

My dearest Dear, (b)

TH Y lovely letter was brought me this minute, and since I believe thee to be true and constant to me, I think it my duty to hide nothing from thee. Mamma intended that I should go to the horse-race with the miss C—s; and she ordered † R—s to give me two guineas for that purpose. So that you must look out for him, being it's market day, and take it of him; but do

* A young gentleman of fortune in Newport, Monmouthshire (I forgot mentioning of him in the course of my amour) in October 1734, he came to Ross (accompanied by Mr. H—t R—rs of the King's Head inn in Monmouth) in order to pay his addresses to Parthenissa. He sent for me, and begged of me to go and ask her, if she would give him leave to make her a visit. I (perfectly knowing, or at least guessing the answer she would make) delivered his message, but she would not see him. If Mr. Doomsday had heard of this short embassy of mine, I should most certainly have lost his good opinion of me.

† W— R—rs (a tenant of Mrs. P—) who keeps the Golden Lion in Abergavenny.

not

cause I am positive we shall make but a few words to the bargain. Pray give my compliments to madam and miss. Tell miss that I have transcribed Secatiata del sua nedo, out of Rodelinda, and un Lampoela Speranza, out of Admetus, both for the flute, and will send them to her the very first opportunity.

I am Yours,

Monmouth, Aug. 28, 1735.

JAMES PARRY.

N. B. The minute J——b received my letter, and read it till he came to the Italian words, he carried it to Parthenissa, who seeing a mark upon it (whereby she knew that I had filled up the paper with lemon juice) told him she wanted his paper to set down a memorandum, by which means she kept the letter and scorched it, and what I writ was as follows.

XL. To PARTHENISSA.

My Lovely Angel. (c)

P——P—— gave me thy letter on Tuesday, whilst I was in your parlour, in company with honest W——L——s, who is just come from London. I confess my last letter to my charmer had nothing of the complaisant lover in it; but is there any thing that a man who loves as I do, is not capable of saying? I love thee to distraction, and

I 5

tha:

that is the reason that I am for securing thee to myself. My heart grows fuller and fuller of thee, and the least kind word softens me to folly? love is a witchcraft of the mind, that directs one to an object, and fixes one to it, maugre all our resistance; it is a disease that seizes us like the madness of dogs and other animals. Love causes in lovers the same effect that wine does in drunkards. I need not tell thee all this, because (to me) thou art the queen of love. I fully determined to have been at Newport on Tuesday, but Mr. M—se made me defer my journey till he came with me in his road to Swansey. I write this to thee here in Ross, but what I shall write to-morrow from Monmouth, will be nothing but a flam, in order to have this convey'd to thee. Let me hear from thee, nay let me see thee soon, for I long to wear the matrimonial yoke, therefore do not defer it any longer.

Thee I conjure, by all our past delights,
Our cheerful days, and our transporting
nights,

By all the imprecated Gods above,
To whom you are forsworn, unless you love,
By thy fair face, which I as much adore,
As all those Gods, and own as much its
pow'r;

Ah! let thy wishes with my will agree,
Since surely I thy slave must ever be;

In

To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

(b)

YOU cannot be surprized at our behaviour, when you consider where you spoke slighting of me; but to keep you no longer in suspence, you must know there came a letter to mamma, but from whom she will not tell; assuring her, that you one night came to an ale-house, and swore you might marry me any day; but my face was damn'd ugly, my shape bad, and my stingy temper you should never endure; and then shewed several letters I writ to you; and that if she doubted, there were two men ready to swear it at any time. You may guess what a hurry here is, first with me, then I with you. I am now quite deceived in you; so farewell forever. I hope you will not expose me in this last end; but I thought in justice, I ought to tell you the reason in writing, since I never shall again be alone with you (which I find you are not sorry for.) Alas! there is no faith in man. She is determined to leave off housekeeping, which I am not sorry for, since I find it is as it is. When I think of thy broken vows, good God how it shocks me! but man is made to flattery, deceit, self-interest, and all that is bad. You cannot be angry when you consider it, since you know too well how I am served, that did not deserve it from you.

you. I was forced solemnly to swear, that I neither was nor ever would be married to you ; and you may imagine I made no scruples, as soon as I found your usage ; there was at that time a penknife to my breast, which was to oblige me to confession. Oh ! I have had such a week of vexing, that it shall be my earnest prayers to the Almighty, I may never have the like again. As it is impossible for you to clear yourself, I must beg this last favour, that you would never write more to me, since it would but help to make me more miserable (if possible.) Good God, how silly I was to trust a drunkard. Oh ! how I am this moment hurried by different passions — but, what am I doing ; you are not the person I took you for, and may be I may have this letter flung in my teeth ; but if you are not quite turned brute, have the compassion to burn it. I could still upbraid you, but must now conclude ; therefore once more farewell forever, from the too too much deceived, *

PARTHENISSA.

I often think upon the verses I once writ you, out of the † Maid's Tragedy. I could tear my heart and eyes out ; but what am I the near. I endeavoured to write in lemon, but am so watched, I could not. For God's

* A character which she very much admired, in the countess of Pembroke's Arcadia, written by sir Phillip Sidney.

† See the letter V.

not spend it all, and don't be angry with thy fond Parthenissa for giving this caution, because I know thee to be gen'rous and free, &c. You promised to be back in three days with me, and now it is my turn to hector. If you don't come home to night, I will actually go to Lant—io to-morrow. I shall not forget thy letter which frightened me so much, when I was at Monmouth this day twelvemonth, with Mrs. B— D— and Mr. Doomsday. My dear boy, for all jesting, come to my arms this night, or to-morrow without fail, for I long to have thee with me, my dear dearest boy I have not time to say more, only,

I am,

Thy most affectionate S—— se,

Ross, Sat. 2 o'Clock.

PARTHENISSA.

N. B. I could not meet with him; he gave the money to Mr. J — S — n (clerk to one an attorney) who gave it Parthenissa that night in Ross. That person has said several things in company (since my amour was publickly known) which are no way to her advantage; it was concerning her behaviour, &c. whilst he was in her company; I being then at Monmouth.

XXXV. To

XXXV. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

(b) Sept. 28, 1735.

IA M sorry to go without taking leave of thee, though I have all the reason imaginable to fancy thee inconstant. If you write to me, take all the care in the world, and not by post, as last time. I should be glad (if the sight of me can be endured) if you would call on us. I have not time to say more, only I fancy that you have three or four strings to your bow. Adieu thou best beloved of men; but nothing cures love, like a slight from him one loves, &c. &c.

PARTHENISSA;

XXXVI. To Mr. L—s.

Sir,

BE pleased to give the inclosed to Mr. Parry; but I must beg you will not give it him unless you are sure he is fasting, and sober. In so doing you will very much oblige,

Sir,

Your very humble Servant.

N. B. The inclosed was as follows.

To Mr.

sake take no notice to Pen. not even that you are a going to London, where I wish you all the happiness this world can afford. Next Saturday I will say a little more to you on a piece of paper that I will send to Jenny Birch, with the names of the books that you have of mine, if I can possibly.

XXII. To PARTHENISSA.

My lovely charming Angel, (b)

M R. L—s came on Tuesday evening to my lodgings, and asked me if I had drank any thing that day. I assured him I had not. He then told me he had a letter for me from you, and with that gave it me ; but when I perused it, good God ! how great was my confusion, trouble, and surprise ; my heart was ready to have burst within me, my pulse beat low, my spirits failed me, and for some minutes I was bereft of my senses. Mr. L—s (seeing my concern) begged that I would be as easy as I could ; and to make it my business to find out the authors of that villainous letter, which was sent thy mamma. No Pen (my dearest angel) is able to describe the anxiety I am now in, and am really afraid, that I never shall be able to suppress my grief, since (heaven knows it) I am to be debarred unjustly from thy lovely person, and dear conversation, &c. My lovely girl, I scorn to tell thee a lie, and will so far vindicate my integrity,

tegrity, as to insist upon thy believing me, in what I am going to say. I take the almighty God to witness (as the Creator of all things both visible and invisible) that I never was capable of saying those words of you, that you have mentioned in your letter, and I heartily imprecate, that he would split my soul into ten thousand splinters, and cast them into the deep abyss of Hell, if I ever (to my knowledge) harboured such a thought of you ; it therefore must be some damned fiend, that could write so hellish a letter to your mamma. I would with pleasure forfeit any thing but my soul, to be revenged on them, did I but once know who they are. I would have no regard for their family, for by heaven I would do myself justice.

When I am wrong'd, and unreveng'd sit still,
Sword, flame, and poison have forgot to kill.

Could my dearest angel ever be persuaded by any devil, to believe that I could say thy face was damned ugly, thy shape bad, &c. I cannot think you would believe it. I solemnly declare in the presence of heaven, that I always did, do, and ever shall think thee beautiful as an angel, and one fragrant field of charms, to pamper up the blood of wild desire. To me you were always dear as the light ; O dearer than the vital air I breathe. O thou art dearer to my soul than rest to wearied pilgrims, or to misers gold ;

to

to great men power, or wealthy citizens pride. But your mamma's inhuman usage to you has shocked me more than any thing else. I cannot help thinking but that she saw me in thy dear embraces, at the bottom of the great stair-case, the last time I was at Lant-io, and blest in thine arms: and I am really of opinion (because she said nothing to me after you ran up the great stairs) that this is an invention of hers, in order to separate thee inhumanly from me for-ever. Pen's seeing you in tears when I was going to Monmouth horse-race, has been (you may depend on't) of great disservice to each of us; nay, I swore at that time, it would inevitably ruin us, unless timely remedied by our marriage. My angel may be assured, that no one upon earth, excepting Mr. L—s, has seen any of thy letters to me. And he, although the best of friends to me, and one who knows ev'ry other secret of my soul (but that of enjoying thee) none but those that were no way exposing thy loss of virginity.

Go bid the needle his dear north forsake,
 To which with trembling rev'rence it does
 bend;
 Go bid the stones a journey upwards make;
 Go bid th'ambitious flame no more ascend:
 And when these false to their old motions
 prove,
 Then will I cease thee, thee alone to love.
 Therefore,

Therefore, my lovely angel, how could you lay so severe a command upon me, as not to write to you for the future? is it not enough to lose you? is it not too much to fear, that the only person whom I love is designed for the embraces of another? must I also banish my thoughts, would you also deprive me of the only good I have left, and rob me of my love? ah! cruel! do you think it is possible for a man that you have enslaved, to recover his heart? know your own power better than you do, and cease vainly exhorting me to erase you out of my memory.

Yes, Parthenissa, I am still the same;
For thee I burn, for thee preserve my flame:
The poles shall move, and from their axis
start,
Ere I will change my love, or change my
heart.
Before my heart chuse any new delight,
The sun shall lose his heat, the moon her light;

If my fair-one has an inclination to write to me, for I have had no thoughts lately of going to London (as, like every thing else, has been falsely insinuated to thee) you may do it with your urine as well as lemon juice: and if you have any regard for the person whom you have robbed of his soul, you will let me hear from you soon; if not, you may perhaps hear of my exit out of this life; which news would be very agreeable to your mamma,

mamma, but how far it may be so to you, I cannot determine. I sincerely wish you as much happiness as possibly any woman can have; I wish your mornings may be good, your noons better, your evenings and your nights best of all. I wish your sorrows may be short, your joys lasting, and all your desires end in success. These, my lovely angel, are the hearty and sincere wishes of him, who has been, is now, and ever will be (thou fairest of women)

Thy devoted, faithful, and ever-constant,

Ross, Oct. 22, 1735.

JAMES PARRY.

Pen. P— has given me to understand that I shall never be in your company (alone) again, and that you never will lie in Ross any more. O heavens, how am I tortured! never was any mortal at so great a loss for words to express his grief as I am in at present. Did my angel but know the bitter anguish of my soul, thou wouldest pity me. Oh! how my heart this moment akes; but if it could be false to my first vows (ever to love another, besides thyself) I would tear it from my breast, and throw it from me; for living or dead, I can be only thine. I would say more, but at present I cannot;

For while I write, my words are lost in tears: The less my sense, the more my love appears.

XXXVIII. To

XXXVIII. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

My dear Dearest,

(c)

I Have had thy dear letter from Jacob these two days, and cannot tell the grief I am in, being almost worried to death about thee. I am fully satisfied, my dear, that what I was told concerning your abusing or talking of me, as I have before mentioned, is all made lies by mamma; by which means she thinks to make me hate my dear boy; but she shall miscarry in her point, and that my dearest shall find soon. But, good God, what a life I have here with them! it is incredible. I must have patience. I am almost sure that Pen. has told mamma in what a manner she found thee and me, a little before the horse-race; mamma certainly saw thee in my arms (but she has not told me any thing) when thou wert with me at the bottom of the stairs, &c. and my shoulders were all white with the lime from off the wall. I told thee then that somebody would see us, and begged that you would not do it; but thou woud'st have thy own way, and I could not refuse thee any thing, witness my M—h—d. By all the love we have bore one another, I charge you to be constant, and don't offer to go out of the country, for I actually am resolved to be thy lawful wife, let what will happen. I am a little angry with thee for thinking that I have no regard for thy life and

and safety; therefore pray take care of yourself, and I hope you will for my sake. Mamma is almost raving mad, and I really was afraid she would kill me, but heaven has spared me (I hope) for thee; but in the mean while I lead a miserable life; and what adds to my misfortune, I have lost the paper that we both writ upon the fatal day of our parting, and I am terribly afraid that mamma has picked it up. If so, good God! what shall I do? I have not time to say more, only be constant, and don't offer to go out of the country, and you shall know my resolutions soon. When you come this way, you may send to me by N—y T—s; I have engaged her to secrecy; but don't trust P—gy J—s, for she is fly and false. Thou hast a great many enemies here; but I am still thy fond, constant, and affectionate

Lan--io Oct. 28, 1735.

PARTHENISSA.

P. S. Don't thee give J—my P—ce any thing, for I will satisfy him; he is the truest (and N—ny) in the family. Let me hear from thee soon. I hope the storm will not hold long.

XXIX.

XXIX. To PARTHENISSA.

My incomparable Charmer,
and lovely Angel,

AT the receipt of thine, scarce could I contain the joy of my exulting soul to find that thou dost believe me (as I certainly am) innocent of the vile fallacy, that I unjustly was accused of. The troublesome life that thou dost lead, &c. grieves me to the heart.

No greater torments light, than those I feel
When you my dearest, tend'rest part are ill,
For oh ! with what dire tortures am I rack'd,
Whom diff'rent griefs successively distract!
Sometimes my grief from this does higher grow,

To think that I have caus'd so much to you:
The great Almighty's witness, how I pray,
That all our crimes on me alone he'd lay.

I need not tell my dearest, the grief thy absence causes me. But since thy last letter generously tells me that thou wilt marry me, notwithstanding the persuasive arguments which undoubtedly are given thee to the contrary; the joy I conceive is unspeakable, to think that I shall have the only one I love, again in my arms; for thou art the pride and glory of my heart! without thee, all the world is worthless dross; life a base slavery,

slavery, riches but a mock, and love, the soul of all, a bitter curse. If love be treasure, we will be wondrous rich; I have so much, my heart will surely break with it; vows cannot express it. When I would declare it, how great is my joy. I am dumb with the big thought, I swell and sigh, and labour with my longing. But my Parthenissa will be mine, even my ravishing Parthenissa; the thought is extacy! these arms shall hold her fast to my throbbing breast! my ravished eyes gaze till they are blind with looking fondly at thee; my stifling lips shall smother all thy smiles, and follow thee with such pursuit of kisses, that even our souls shall lose themselves in pleasure. To facilitate those happy hours to come (provided my lovely angel will fix the night) I will bring three or four friends on horseback with me, and bring thee from thy miserable confinement to liberty, not in the least doubting, but I shall make the best of husbands, and thy life as agreeable as any woman's breathing. Let me have an answer with all possible speed, and keep me ever in thy thoughts, my ever dear Parthenissa, and never cease to love me, because I can be no other's, but thine eternally.

Ross, October
30th, 1735.

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. There are a company of comedians here, and I have been desired by some gentle-
VOL. II. K men,

men, and the players (of which number is one Mountier an organist) to act the part of sir Hugh Evans in the Merry Wives of Windsor, and that of captain Mackheath in the Beggar's Opera. I have not given them an absolute answer, and if I do any such thing, I will have a benefit to myself.

XL. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

Dear Sir,

IT was not that I did not partake of the misfortune you lately suffered, that I have not acknowledged the receipt of yours (of the 29th of last month) before this time, but that I was willing, if possible, upon this unlucky occasion, to accompany my letter with something that might be (though but in expectation) agreeable to you; and whether what I shall now acquaint you withal will be so or not, I cannot tell, even though it should come to pass; however, you have my good wishes.

On Sunday last I heard that the organist of Birmingham (where is my friend W. L.) was leaving that place; but whether that account is true or not, is yet an uncertainty, and therefore, for the present, you must keep it a secret. However, I have wrote to my friend this night, and given him such instructions, that (if it should prove true) we shall make very strong interest for yourself; and the chief reason for my writing to you

you now is, that you may let Mr. L——s at Birmingham (to whom you may direct by the cross-post) as well as myself, know, where our letters may come directly to you, if there should be any probability of success, and that you may be ready to go there if there should be occasion for it; but till you hear again from one of us, don't say a word of it to any body.

There are two churches with organs in each, and one organist supplies both; and very great advantages to be made with scholars; so that I fancy (if offered) it will be worth your acceptance.

I am,

Your real Friend and Servant,

Lond. Nov. 25, 1735.

Jos. P——r.

XLI. To PARTHENISSA.

My beautiful Inchantress, (b)

A M I never to be blessed with a sight of thee, or at least hear from my lovely fair one, in order to fulfil our vows and contract. Oh my inconsiderate, improvident, and most unfortunate love! and those treacherous hopes that have betrayed both thee and me! the passion that I designed for the blessing of my life, is become the torment of it: A torment, answerable to the prodigi-

ous cruelty that thy absence causes. An absence so hellish, that sorrow itself wants words to express it. Am I then never to see those eyes again? those eyes, that have so often exchanged love with mine, to the charming of my very soul to extacy and delight. My life was vowed to you the first time I saw you; and if you will not accept it as a present, I am content to make it a sacrifice. A thousand times a day I send my sighs after you; and what return for all my passionate disquiets, but the good counsel of my cross fortune? that whispers me at every turn, ah, wretched Parry! why dost thou flatter, and consume thyself in the vain pursuit of one never to be recovered. She is gone, she is gone, irrecoverably gone, and never more will think of thee. But hold, you have more honour in you than to do so ill a thing; and so have I, than to believe it, especially of a person that I am concerned so much to justify. Forget me! it is impossible. My case is bad enough at best, without the aggravation of vain suppositions. The last letter that my angel sent me, gave me such a passion of the heart, as if it would have forced its way through my breast, and come to you; it laid me for some time senseless, I wish it had been dead; for I had then died of love. But I revived, and to what end? only to die again, and lose that life for you, which you yourself (I am afraid) do not think worth the saving. I often

often make the prospect and church-yard
my solitude.

There, like some frantick Bacchanal I walk,
And to myself with sad distraction talk.
Then, big with grief, I throw me on the
ground,
And view the melancholy fields around.

All this distraction is owing to the want of you. Why then does not my lovely angel let me know what time I shall come with some resolute friends, and bring thee from a prison to a place of liberty? I wish for no other happiness, but that of living and dying with thee; and I am sure thou dost believe me. This only comfort I have, in the bitterness of our deadly separation, that I never was false to you; and that for the whole world I would not have my conscience tainted with so black a crime. Can you then, that know the integrity of my soul, and the tenderness that I have for you; can you (I say) find in your heart to abandon me, and expose ourselves to the terrors that consequently will attend our separation, unless timely united? my letters are long, and I fear troublesome; but I hope you will forgive them, and dispense with the fooleries of a sort of your own making. Methinks I run over and over too often with the story of my deplorable condition, occasioned by your neglect of me. Give me leave to

thank you from the bottom of my heart, for the miseries you have brought upon me, and to detest the tranquility I lived in before I knew you. I am so far infinitely happy, as to receive all the letters you send to me. I therefore beg you would continue that happiness in writing often, that I may have a fellow-feeling, and share with you in your griefs, and dismiss that despair you tell me I have caused in you, that you may live in tranquility for the future. If your love increases as mine does, it will come to the highest degree of passion and violence. Adieu! I shall die of grief, if I do not quickly hear from you. I pray God, with all my soul, this letter may be safely delivered to you, to testify the ardour of my passion for you, and believe me, I suffer all the evils you do; but I conjure you, not to share with me in any degree of mine, for fear you increase your own. I keep your letters with more care and tenderness than my life; I kiss them a thousand times a day, and bless the hand that wrote them. I wait for your answer with impatience; conserve the love you have for me, and believe that I never would have staid in this country, but for your deliverance from the sufferings you lie under for my sake, who am absolutely yours, and a thousand times more yours than mine own; therefore, afford me all the satisfaction you are able, in this tempest of my divided thoughts, and never cease

cease to love me, because you know that I
am eternally yours,

Ros, Nov. 3, 1735.

JAMES PARRY.

XLII. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

(b)

M Y God, how am I used about thee ! it is most wretchedly and barbarous. I am really afraid that I shall run mad, and in my fits discover all, to mamma and my aunt J—s. Oh, how I am worried about thee ; mamma and she use thee barbarously, and call thee all the villains and rogues in the world. Oh ! it is worse than death to me to hear it ; but I must have patience. I never (said I to them) heard that he ever committed a base action. With that, I thought they would have killed me. But thy usage strikes deeper into my soul than theirs, or how could my dearest boy, to whom I have given all that should have been valuable to me, and one who is master of my soul, accuse me of abandoning him, neglecting, and the lord knows what. If I could get my letters conveyed to thee, I would forever write ; therefore don't imagine your letters to be long and tedious to me, for I could read them, and do, a thousand times over. But to hear thee abused adds a double weight to my sorrow, and did they know thee half so well as I do, they would

not ill use thee thus. Send me, in your next (if you can remember) the last song that you made a tune to, and sent me, for I had the mortification to see that burnt before my face. Pray answer me sincerely (for I hear you acted captain Mackheath) who was your Polly, and who was your Lucy ; describe them to me, and swear to me, in your next, that you never kissed them off the stage, nor kept them company. But in answer to your last dear letter, I cannot at this time fix a night for my escape from hence to thy dear arms ; but continue to love me, and dearly too ; for may the devil have me if I am not thine lawfully (as thou doit call it.) What I shall do, I am resolved to do within this month, therefore come this way as often as you can, and write to me always long, and very loving ; do not offer to stir out of the country, until you have me in your arms, and there, oh ! I could die with pleasure. Kiss this paper ten thousand times, for it has lain near my heart these six hours. Oh ! the life I lead ; however, indulge, in secret, the swelling rapture, but let not signs of joy appear, until thou art, past prevention, in the arms of thy constant, fond, and affectionate

Friday Night.

PARTHENISSA.

P. S. Never cease to love me, &c.

XLIII. To

XLIII. To PARTHENISSA.

My Lovely Angel, (b)

YOURS dated yesterday was seven-night, I safely received from Ambrose, and it is not without horror, that I think of thy base usage, and flatter myself with the thoughts of having my fair one in my arms undisturbed. But Ambrose struck me to the soul yesterday, by telling me that D—y J—s is a courting thee, and that thy mamma, being over persuaded by his mother, consents to it. Consider the oaths, vows, and what has passed between us, which I am sure if you do as you ought, no one can balance you from me.

A thousand tender things to mind I call,
For they who truly love remember all.
Still all those joys to my remembrance move,
For, oh! how vast a memory has love.

Not yet! not yet! O ye dull tedious days, when will you glide away, and bring that happy hour on, in which I shall at least hear from my Parthenissa. Am I forgotten still, forlorn, impatient, restless every where; not one little moment can give me repose. Haste then, thou charming object of my wishes, and eternally of my new desires; haste to my arms, my eyes, my soul, &c.

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The song is called, The Forsaken Lover
and looks as if it was made for me.

O say, where is my Molly gone,
Where does my fair one hide ;
Since she is from my bosom flown,
How can I life abide.
Tell me ye sun, that gilds the day,
Ye moon and stars the night ;
Say whither has she bent her way,
And hurried from my sight.
Whisper, ye warblers of the sky,
Some tidings of my dear ;
With rapid wings, O hither fly,
And feast my longing ear.
Ye winds that fan the blushing spray
In pity hear my moan ;
Tell her my thoughts can never stray,
From her I love alone.
Ye streams that thro' the meadows glide,
With a majestick pace,
As I pass by your purling side,
Shew me my Molly's face.
So pleasing would the scene appear,
I'd plunge the murmur'ring wave ;
And like Narcissus, grasp my fair,
Within the watry grave.
But, ah alas ! too much I fear,
I never shall regain
The sight of her I love so dear,
Whilst I on earth remain.

This song (my dearest) will go to the same
tune as that which I made to the lady D.
Bertie's.

Bertie's. In answer to yours concerning the Comedians, I was importuned by several gentlemen, as well as the actors, to perform the part you mentioned; the M—W——gs, Esq; C—n, and most of the gentlemen circumjacent to Ross, came to see me. The woman that play'd the part of Polly was something like Mrs. Sc—e, and Lucy was the exact picture of Mrs. Betty Dew. You know how much I was in love with the two latter; so that I take heaven to witness I never kissed the actresses off the stage; and what money I got by them, would do no more than defray two or three journeys into Monmouthshire.

But in answer to your letter, I conjure you by all the sacred ties of friendship, and by all the dreadful oaths which has past between us, that you will harbour no thought of D— J—s. (If you do, let me instantly know it, and I will contribute all that in my power lies, to compleat your happiness, by leaving this country.) If you will fulfil your promise to me, name but the night, and I will bring you away with safety. Let me know (my lovely angel) your real intentions, and for heaven's sake do not fool me. Let me hear from you by Nanny, for I shall return from Newport in two days time, and I hope to see you (if but through the window) though not as I could wish; yet while heaven permits me the blessing of seeing you alive, I can never

be truly miserable. Ah! cruel fate, that made no cure for love! love has no bounds in pleasure or in pain.

By treaty I wou'd enter, not by force:
With arms I'd come not, nor with foot nor horse.

I'd have no aid, and company I'd have none,
And were it not for love, shou'd be alone.
Where-e'er I go, by love I'm still pursu'd,
I cannot shake him from me, if I wou'd.
He's of my being, now become a part,
Dwells in my veins, and revels in my heart:
But doubt! this tyrant doubt torments my breast,
My thoughts, like birds, who frighted from their nest,
Around the place, where all was hush'd before,
Flutter, and hardly settle any more.

I have been very ill lately, and am hardly able to sit my horse, and nothing but the hopes of seeing, or hearing from my fair one could have at this time brought me from Ross. Adieu thou loveliest among women, and believe me to be thine till death.

Ross, Nov. 13, 1735.

JAMES PARRY.

XLIV. To

XLIV. To Mr. PARRY.

My Dearest, (b)

N — Y T — s gave me a lovely, long letter of yours, and every line pleased me, but that concerning D — y J — s; that indeed put me into deep confusion and trouble, especially to think I have made thee jealous of me. I never will give thee occasion, though I have often wished, in jesting with you, I could. Therefore don't be uneasy, for he shall not touch my lips. I have wrote to you a longish letter with lemon juice, upon a piece of paper that I have sent to J — y B — ch with the names of the books you have burnt. I really believe mamma has an inclination to marry, if any body would ask her the question; for she talks of buying a new scarlet gown, and a blue one. I am almost dead, and wish I was with you. I have writ sorrowful enough in that to J — y, so will not cause a relapse of sickness to thee; therefore (as I hope to hear from you soon) adieu for the present, for I have not time to say more than that I am thy fond

Lant-^oio, Nov. 16th, 1735.

PARTHENISSA.

XLV. To

XLV. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

I Desire you will bring all the books you have of mine to Mrs. J—y B——ch. viz. a little book wrote by my great grandfather, and a large book wrote by a French nobleman, an Italian, and another whom I have forgot, and a play book with six plays in it, viz. Tamerlane, the Provok'd Wife, Sullen Lovers, Virtuoso, and the Island Princes, &c. and a book entitled the English Worthies, and the Christian Hero, writ by the late Sir Richard Steele, and the history of Wales. If you will bring them where desired, I shall be very much obliged to you.

I am, Yours,

Nov. 14, 1735.

PARTHENISSA.

(d)

N. B. What follows was wrote upon the paper (as mentioned in her last) with urine.

My Dear,

YOU cannot imagine what hard words I have had about thee, but I must bear them all; for one thing I am told, you will be like * Incle to Yarico, but I

* Spectator, Vol. I. No. 11.

cannot

cannot think it. I must beg you will act generous by me. I hope you will not deny knowing the circumstances I now am in. My dear, Pen. told me, she opened one of Jacob's letters, and found it to be to me. I have writ a long paper against you come this way next (if I can trust any one to give it) with all my mind. Ever since mamma found us at the bottom of the great stairs, she has been very uneasy, and says I am false to her. I have quite forgot what I have already writ, only I wish you may read it. I should have been glad if you had given me a more satisfactory answer to mine concerning the players, but I am convinced of your constancy. As this paper lay near my heart, pray take care of it. Pen. will soon come to Rofs, but will not stay long there. I should be glad that you would talk with her; but, my dear, don't be in a passion with her; and if you have any love in the world for me, don't go out of the country, especially to London: for if you do I shall break my heart. Stay but a month or six weeks however, and then I will resolve one way or other, for I long to be in thy arms. Pen. is against thee, and burns all the handwriting that she can see of thine, lest there should be a charm in them. For God's sake (my dear) desire Mr. J—s to speak to parson D—s, not to talk a word about my coming to be married at Dingestow, for my brother will come down soon; and if D—s should

should speak about it, I should be murther'd before I can come to thee. Take all imaginable care in writing. The greatest plague I have is to scorch those letters of yours wrote with lemon. I could write forever, and shouldst thou give thy heart to another (if I should be kept from thee) or at least if thou dost fall in love with any one, she must be handomer, but none can be truer to thee than thy poor Parthenissa. I am satisfied that A——se gave you mine writ with a pencil. I did not expect you till Saturday, otherwise I would have answered you. I thought J——b woukd be as true to us, as he was to Mr. R——d J——ys and Mrs. C——n, but we are miſtaken; it is not the same thing. He won't lose a good place by running any risk of carrying letters. I only desired him to carry you a message the last time you were here, and I find he did not deliver it. I am forsaken by all the world excepting thee; and every one else hates me. I was sorry to hear that thou wert sick, and I wish I had been thy nurse; then I would have cherished thee in my bosom. Pray let me have an answer to know how thou art, for my health depends upon thine. Mamma uses thee barbarously, and me worse; so that I envy thy happiness, because thou hast thy liberty. I am so narrowly watched, that I have hardly time to tie my garters. I do now lie with mamma, for she won't trust me to lie by myself, and I do often talk of the
in

in my sleep, which is a great misfortune. Mamma, I fear, knows all my secrets. She told me that she had dreamt of you, how you came with a sword to kill her, &c. &c. she is very angry with me for looking at any of thy writing, which is in some of my books. She talks of altering her will, and the lord knows what; but do her utmost, she cannot cut my inheritance or birth right from me. I would write more to my dearest, but that the paper is just full, and shall defer writing any more till another opportunity. So now my dear dear dearest, adieu. From thy fond and constant

PARTHENISSA.

XLVI. To PARTHENISSA.

My Lovely Angel, (b)

I Received thy letter from J—y B——ch, and have not as yet given her the books, but shall in a short time. The calamity thou art in I hope time will remedy; no pen can describe my sorrow for thee, and never was any mortal at such a loss for want of words to express his grief as I at present am in. I have spoke to Mr. J—s (according to your desire) begging him to injoin parson D—s to silence, in case he should be asked any questions relating to our meeting at Dingestow. Mr. J—s promised to speak to him.

him. Ah! that heaven had kept something of thine back, but twenty four hours longer, then we had been married, and all the hurly-burly would have been over long ago. I have heard afresh (and not without horror) that D—k J——ys kissthe thee, and that it will certainly be a match between you. Oh! heavens how it shocks the whole fabrick of my body. Confess—Oh! thou eternal conqueror of my soul, whom every hour and every tender joy renders more dear and lovely—tell me why (if thou dost love me, and lovest as well as ever) thou dost let that youth lay his head in thy bosom, and kiss thee with numberless kisses. I know him to be a forward one, and his character is such at Hereford. Have I treated him there, took him to plays, horse-races, and given him money (for thy sake as a relation) for this purpose: A rival cancels all obligation of friendship; but if vows and oaths have any claim to thy promises,

Don't let his arms embrace your neck, nor
rest.

Your tender cheek upon his youthful breast.
Let not his hand within your bosom stray,
And rudely with your pretty bubbles play.
But above all, let him no kiss receive,
That's an offence I never can forgive.
Do not, O do not that sweet mouth resign,
Lest I rise up in arms, and cry 'tis mine.

How

How often have I asked thee in an hour,
when my fond soul was doating on thy eyes,
when my arms clasped thy yielding neck,
my lips imprinting kisses on thy cheeks, and
taking in the breath that sighed from thine :
how often have I asked thee, this little but
important question, does my M—y love
me ? then kiss thee for thy yes and sighs,
and ask again, and still my soul was ravish-
ed with new joy, when thou would'lt answer
yes, I love thee dearly. But now, oh ! how
I tremble to think I must never hear thee
more pouring out thy soul, in soft sighs of
love ? A thousand dear expressions, by which
I knew the story of thy heart, and while
you told it, bid me feel it panting, never
to see thy eyes fixed on my face, till the soft
showers of joy would gently fall, and hang
their shining dew upon thy looks ; then, in
a transport, snatch thee to my bosom, and
sigh a thousand times, ere thou could'lt ut-
ter,—Ah ! my dear dear Jemmy, how
dearly I love thee.—Oh the dear eloquence
those few words contain, when sent with
lovers accents to a soul all-languishing. But
now I fear, alas, thy love is grown cold ;
if so, oh ! take the other part of the proverb
too, and say, it has bred contempt. In-
difference (my angel) is less to be borne than
hate, or any thing. Thou charming object
of my wishes, do not deceive me, but be
just, and let me know my real fate. Oh !
don't

don't deceive the heart that thinks of nothing but thy lovely idea.

Thou sacred treasure of my soul, forgive me if I wrong thy love, and believe me (charming M—y) I live not those hours I am absent from thee. Thou art my soul, and my eternal felicity; I therefore conjure thee, O thou most charming of thy sex! thou lovely dear delight of my transported soul! thou everlasting treasure of my heart! let me hear immediately from thee, lest that in the mean time, thou dost hear of the death of thy

Ever constant and devoted Servant,

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. That worthy gentleman, Mr. P—r, has given me to understand, that the organist's place of Birmingham will be vacant, and that I stand fair for it.

XLVII. To PARTHENISSA.

(c)

TRemendous heaven! what do I hourly hear; but what do I talk of hearing for, when every one tells me, that D—k J—ys's lips and yours are never asunder, nay even your bosom (and I am afraid something else) does not go unsearched by him.

him. Confusion, torture, despair, damnation, hell, and furies, are nothing to what I this moment bear. Nay, even Ambrose told me to-day at Monmouth, that he does nothing but slobber you, and tumble you about. Tell me, thou bewitching inchantress, have I, who have made the busyness of my life a study to please thee, deserved this usage from thee; have I spent my flowered age, and precious time to so bad a purpose. O ye heavens! who are witness to my love, judge between us, and tell me if I have deserved this base usage. Good God! that a girl of such sublime faculties should fall from such an height, and commit so unjust an action, after millions of oaths, vows, and protestations to the contrary. Oh! what a fond credulous fool have I been, to imagine that you would confine your heart to me alone; but now, alas, by a too fatal experience, I find I am deceived in you. Must that (I am afraid too happy) youth, range and sport in my verdant vales, and downy lawns of fruitful bliss! and ever-flowing springs of cool refreshing beauty, without driving me distracted. Damnation seize the thought. Oh! Parthenissa, be assured that it will be less pain to me, to have an eye plucked out of my head, than to tear from my heart the first object of my love. I am farther informed, that D—k J—ys entertains you with a song or two that I taught him (to a fine purpose you will allow)

allow) and that you are mightily diverted with a particular song of his, called, Ye Nymphs and ye Swains, &c. I formerly have had one of the finest voices in the world, and have no despicable one now, and I am sure were you to be merited by singing, my rival would stand but a poor chance. I need not tell thee any more of myself. As you tender your own safety, do not ill use me, by accepting the address of any one, for though I may be thought a lamb, I shall be found a lion; and the heart that wants revenge is base. But now I am calm! forgive me (my dearest) for using you so roughly, and impute it to the violence of my passion, but the thoughts of D—k J—ys (after what you told me of him, when last at Ross) racks me. I shall return from Newport the day after to-morrow; and if you could send me a line by N—y T—s, you will in a great measure revive the drooping spirits of him who only lives for you, and can be no one's else, but your affectionate slave,

Dingel. Jan. 19. 1735-6.

JAMES PARRY.

XLVIII.

XLVIII. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

(b)

PEN. has not taken any notice that my dear was so near. I will soon answer you, for I have wrote half, but don't know how to send it you; for, to my sorrow, I find Ambrose to be false too. I have not time to say more. I have had but three letters lately, and N—y says, that you told her, you had one way or other sent five. I have not seen your last letter as yet.

XLIX. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

Mr. Parry,

I Am really sorry that you received so much foul language from my aunt J—ys yesterday, and if I could have hindered it I would, but it was out of my power. I now must deal plainly with you, for I cannot lead this life for ever. I cannot marry you, neither will I offer to do it, because I should be turned out of doors the moment I did. I am sure you would be sorry to see me want. I therefore beg this last favour of you, that you never will think of me any more, nor never write to me, because it will be impossible for me to read or see it. I understand that you are in election of a good place, through the interest of good Mr.

P-r,

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P—r, and I sincerely wish you may have it. You may, and I don't in the least doubt but you will, marry a young woman more agreeable than myself, and one with a greater fortune. I wish you may, and may all the happiness in this world and the next attend you.

I am Yours, &c.

Frid. Morn. Jan. 23, 1735-6. PARTHENISSA.

L. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

Dear Sir,

I Received yours of the 14th inst. and really partake with you in the uneasiness and misfortune which you suffer; but consider it is well worth the endeavours of a brave mind to struggle with misfortunes, and never despair of seeing a better day; and in the mean while, it is some consolation to reflect upon the hopes you have such reasonable dependance upon, and which I hope to live to see brought to maturity.

You may be assured it is not for want of respect that your friend at Birmingham does not write to you, or that he neglects your interest there; I hear from thence every week, and as yet there is not any resolution taken about the election of an organist; when it is, you shall hear concerning it, and I heartily wish it may be worth your acceptance.

I shall

I shall at all times be very glad to do you any service in my power, in this part of the world, and am

Your real Friend and Servant,

Lond. Jan. 19. 1735.

Jos. P — R.

LI. To J——H C——E, Esq;

Sir,

I have been lately informed, you are the chief person who is to manage a prosecution against me, at the suit of Mrs. P — l and her daughter, so would have done myself the honour of waiting on you upon this occasion; but as I cannot be ignorant how disadvantageous a character you have formed of me, by the insinuations of mine enemies, and those who are entirely biassed by them, I chose rather to take this liberty in writing, to assure you, I firmly believe all unprejudiced people of honour, and the young lady's friends (of which number, sir, I take you to be) will drop a proceeding, which will force me to do justice to the lady and myself, by proving all the strong encouragements and liberties the lady has honoured me with. It is true, I no ways deserved them, but no young fellow would (I believe) contradict his inclination and interest, when both joined and offered to him. If you will give me leave

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to

to wait on you, I don't doubt of convincing you, sir, of the truth of what I here insert; but if you will not honour me in that manner, yet beg leave to subscribe myself, sir,

Your most obedient

And most humble Servant,

Monmouth, March 11, 1735-6. JAMES PARRY.

LII. To Mr. JAMES PARRY.

Sir,

I Have sent you all your letters, and * one directed to me, but the purport of it was to you; but I insist on its not being shewn, only if there is a pressing occasion. The wife of old C—d brought me the letter, so it will be easy, I suppose, to prove it came from Lan—io. The letter to me shall be forthcoming, when there is occasion to prove her hand. Pray write a line to me, by post or any way, to assure me of the receipt of these letters.

I am well informed that Parthenissa wrote to you Sunday fortnight, in characters, but I hear it was stopped, and burnt.

As soon as possible let us hear how you come off at Hereford.

Your humble Servant,

Sunday Morn.

M—y J—s.

P. S. Take care of these letters, and don't trust yourself with them long.

LIII. To Mr. PARRY.

Sir,

M R. P— sent me a challenge one day in Monmouth, about six weeks ago, to meet him the next day within a mile of his own house; upon which I went to him at the King's-Head, where he was the time he sent me the challenge, and told him it was an odd method of sending challenges, when it would have been as easy for him to come and deliver it by word of mouth; and much more odd to defer the thing till the next day, for I was ready to meet him that present time, and decide the affair as desired me, which was with pistols, he having a strong aversion to the sword, as not knowing how to make use of it. He finding my resolution, said, the challenge he had sent me was a rash inconsiderate thing, and begged me to take no farther notice of it, and that it was a woman that had led him into

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the error; so after a debate of about an hour we parted friends.

About ten days ago, I found the report you have made mention of in your letter to be current, which is, that I refused fighting Mr. P—; upon which I acquainted him of the scandal, and that I was afraid he had been the author of it himself; he sent me three letters to be publickly read, in order to convince the world of the injustice they do my character, and would himself go anywhere in person to disprove the same; and if Dr. J—s, or any body else, that heard Mr. R—s give himself those airs upon the green at Ross, will but give me leave to make mention of their names in the affair, I will make that scoundrel rascally coward sweat for forty-eight hours without intermission, and if not spirit enough to behave himself like a gentleman, will make him the common jest of the town.

When you come over, I will fix a day for being at Ross, which must be upon a bowling-day.

I am, Sir,
Your humble Servant,

Dingestow,

May 2, 1736, R—d J—s.

P. S. Say nothing of R—s till I come to town, for if he finds the thing talked of, he never will come in my sight, for I was like

like to kick him when last at Ross. Mr. P—'s affair you may make as publick as you please.

LIV. Monmouthshire.

THE jurors for our sovereign lord
the king upon their oaths present,
that James Parry, late of the town of Ross,
in the county of Hereford, yeoman, up-
on the first day of December, in the
ninth year of the reign of our sovereign
lord George the second, by the grace of
God, of Great Britain, France, and
Ireland, king defender of the faith, by
force and arms, at the parish of Lantilio
Crosenny, in the county of Monmouth,
into the dwelling-house of one M—P—ll,
Esq; then and there situated, lying and
being, did enter, and two pieces of
foreign gold coined, to wit, two pieces of
gold coined, of the kingdom of Portugal,
called double doubleloons, each of the
said pieces being of the value of three
pound twelve shillings of lawful money
of Great Britain, and one other piece of
the like foreign gold coined, called five
moidores of the value of six pounds and
fifteen shillings, of like lawful money of
Great Britain, being the proper goods
and chattels of the said M—P—ll, then
and there found in the said house, he the
said James Parry then and there by forc

" and arms, unlawfully, without the con-
" sent of the said M— P—ll, did take and
" carry away, against the peace of our
" sovereign lord the king, his crown and
" dignity.

M—tt—w P-w-ll, Esq; Prosecutor of this
Bill, for our Lord the King.

Witness Parthenissa.

N. B. The reader must observe, that I returned her the money the beginning of July, 1735. And this indictment was found the 6th of May, 1736. I had not seen Parthenissa from the 8th of October, 1735, till the 6th of May, 1736, and she swore I took the money upon the first day of December, 1735, which plainly shews her memory to be as treacherous as she is infamous; and that I was indicted full eleven months after I had returned her the money: if I had been guilty of the fact charged against me, why had she not at that time accused me of it. Then indeed there might have been good grounds for a just indictment, but as it was managed among them, most people were of opinion she is a W—.

LV. To PARTHENISSA.

Dear Creature,

SINCE you had no regard for your soul (when at Newport) in swearing that I took the money against your consent, I shall have none for your honour, by publishing our cursed amour; wherein shall be our courtship, &c. and even all our letters. I have kept your originals carefully, and my copies securely, according to the directions you gave me some years ago. I am pretty easy about the matter, and by the time that Mr. T—n, Mr. L. J. J. Mr. S—, and Mrs. J— (not forgetting a person living near the hall here) give in their evidence, I shall convince the world of the injury done me, and that thy d—n'd insatiate lust (for you were never easy but when I was —) has ruined your character, as well as my livelihood. Why was I not indicted for the loss of your maidenhead, or for the watch you gave me; those you safely might have sworn to have lost inevitably; as for the money you had it again, for which I ought to be sacrificed. My humble service to Mr. Dicky: I presume you know the difference, and may he long continue in your good graces; but you may let him know that I am a sir Francis Drake in miniature. The letter that you bad me write to your monkey-faced brother, concerning Mr. R.

L 4

J—s,

J—s, and Mrs. C——n, is a judgment upon both of us. I shall never forget the figure you and I cut in the parlour glass when we were calling them whore and rogue. Farewel queen Dido. From a foolish miserable blockhead, and one who shall always hate himself, for being so long a slave and St—n to a perfidious girl.

Monmouth, Limbo,
May 11, 1736.

JAMES PARRY.

LVI. To Madam P—LL.

Madam,

I S there no cure for wounds but bleeding dead; and will nothing except my inevitable ruin appease you; that is the unhappy case, and I am now (too late I fear) truly sensible of it. I beg you will give Mr. M—n your attorney immediate orders to hasten the prosecution against me, so that I may try the two indictments this next assize. You may remember, when I was first taken into custody by your orders (together with Mr. S—fe's warrant) and sent to goal, not like one who had for years your good opinion, and the affections of your fair daughter, but like a murderer, &c. I then informed you by a letter written at the Ostrey, that if you sent me to goal, you would for ever ruin me in my business as an organist; and (what I thought would move you

you more) that you would oblige me to publish the amour between your daughter and me, with all the letters that passed between us. This had no manner of effect upon you, and I was forced in the afore-mentioned manner to goal, before the gentleman, who came to bail me, could reach Lantilio. I was in the election of a good place, but lost it through my own folly, and your daughter's, together with your rash proceeding. I am heartily concerned for any unguarded expressions which may have dropt from me, but my provocation was not to be borne. I hope the Almighty will forgive my past follies; I expect no mercy from you, therefore I will sue for none at your hands. Your daughter's appearing against me at Newport (where she got no great credit) after I had lived with her for years as man and wife, I own for some minutes troubled me; and to indict me for gold, which I had had by her consent, indeed gave me an uncommon shock: but when I considered that I should have the satisfaction of confronting her dear person in court, my spirits were re-animated, and that hope gave me new life. There is an account between you and myself, whereby I shall plainly demonstrate, that you are indebted to me eleven guineas and upwards; I having received no more than ten shillings and six pence from you since September 1731. The money is due to me for teaching your daughter —

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and music. I do not reckon the time that she staid (to my mortification) in Monmouthshire, after the death of A—I P—ll; and should you scruple payment, I do not question but that I shall recover my due by law: yet I am yours and your daughter's humble servant,

Limbo, June 30, 1736.

JAMES PARRY.

LVII. For Madam P—LL.

Mrs. P—ll,

T WAS but very lately (being some time in Worcestershire) that Mr. D—s favoured me with a sight of your letter, which you were pleased to send in answer to my just demand of money, due to me for teaching your daughter; otherwise, in justice to myself, I should have answered it sooner, to assure you in the first place, I expect what is owing to me. I intirely deny your servant's giving me notice any way whatsoever, to desist from teaching your daughter. Besides, had she given me any notice of that kind, I should not have thought myself obliged to have absented, unless discharged by you who first employed me. And as you could not but observe, that I continued teaching your daughter three years successively; and having had not the least intimation from you to desist, I am entitled

entitled to the money agreed upon quarterly. I have received but ten shillings and six pence (excepting the shilling I asked you for to give Dr. J—s's boy the time that I gave your daughter five dozen of Pauzon cyder) from you, since the year 1731, or you, as customary, would have receipts to testify it, as you have had to the year before-mentioned. And as you, in your letter to Mr. D—s, are pleased to insinuate my poverty (notwithstanding your daughter learned her best prefections of me) it is not to be supposed I shou'd teach your daughter for nothing, as it was my profession; and though you will not now allow it, have had ladies my scholars superior to your daughter in fortune, and was always exactly paid, and I owned an honour and pleasure in teaching them. I beg leave madam to know when and where I declared I should be famished if it was not for your house (I am of opinion you learnt this new talent of your daughter.) I positively affirm it is unknown to me. It is prefectly well known in Ross that you were continually sending for me, and inviting me to eat at your house. If it was charity, I humbly thank you; but that shall not make me lose my right in my demand of a just debt: but if it was your generosity, I think that is cancelled, by your low-life way of telling me and others of it, in the terms you have done, in your letter to Mr.

D—s. You have told several people in Rois that you have been forced to ask me forty times to eat with you before you could persuade me to it, and that I always wanted so much intreating that it was quite troublesome; and that I used to slip out of doors before you could have the opportunity of asking me to dine or sup with you. But this is foreign to the matter in hand. Notwithstanding (madam) all that you can alledge to the contrary, I must and will insist upon my money. I am unwilling (for your dear daughter's sake) to use any other method than this, so beg you will order immediate payment of it; if this desire is not complied with, I must submit to have my due by law, not doubting but that I shall find a method to bring your daughter (as an evidence) into a court (if I am not paid before my intended proceeding) where I shall with pleasure confront her, and recover my demand.

I am sorry madam you should complain of injuries done to the fatherless, for that is too severe a jest, to one who has been ruined and prosecuted with the most flagrant injustice, by you, and those you were pleased to authorise so to do. I have the charity to forgive you, your daughter, and your infamous adviser: but the manifest wrongs
you

you have done the stranger and orphan, you will one day be accountable for.

I am yet yours and your Daughter's

most obedient humble servant,

Dingestow,

Jan. 19, 1736-7

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. The books that I have of your daughter's shall immediately be returned, provided I have those that she has of mine, viz. God's being proved from the Structure of the World; Nature displayed; Wood's Rogers's Voyage round the World; Dampier's ditto; The Life of Madam de Muci; Callipœdia, or the Art of getting pretty Children; Treacherous Brother; The Life of Signiour Rozelli; The History of the Revolutions in Morocco; and several music books, which cost above four pound.

In short, madam, I will keep nothing of her's but a precious lock of hair, which she was pleased to let me cut off, in order to have some of it set in a ring; that indeed I never will part with.

LVIII. To PARTHENISSA.

Dear Madam,

YOU will unquestionably be surprised at the receipt of this letter, which comes from him who loved you dearer than life,

life, and for your sake, ought never to think of woman more, but erase the whole sex out of his memory.

My senses, I thank heaven, are fixt; therefore I will not upbraid you for forsaking me, writing that base letter to miss C—e, no not even for perjuring yourself concerning the gold, for which I unjustly have been imprisoned.

I am (though late) inclinable to believe, that you acted against your own inclinations, through the persuasive and likewise threatening arguments of your mamma, that fiend Mrs. J—ys, and your brother. If I had not loved you to distraction, I should have put it out of the power of fortune, to have brought me to the low ebb she has done. Heaven and you know how I have loved, and as it has been unlawful, it has punished both of us, with the loss of your character, together with mine, and my livelihood.

The spring of my ruin began the fatal day of our parting, and it proceeded afterwards through the villainy of that R—A—se; he only occasioned the loss of what I have before mentioned. You know all this to be true; and as you have him now in your power, requite him accordingly; but, to use your former words, love! love! has been my ruin.

Out of the four that fought my destruction, there is two that have paid the inevitable debt of nature, which were your brother and

and Mr. C——ke. I sincerely forgive them, and every one (especially yourself) for the manifest injuries done me; as I hope for forgiveness myself.

I am informed that your brother has left you 1800 l. a year, but I am afraid you will not enjoy it so easily as you imagine, because there are some of sir Roger Hill's relations (whom I know in town) that lay claim to the estates in Uxbridge and Fetter Lane, and have made their application to Mr. V——n, an eminent attorney in the Temple. So that Mr. J——n L——s must be as sharp as he possibly can upon your side; because Mr. V——n (if he takes it in hand; as I believe he will) will be as keen upon the other.

You have my good wishes, and since it was not my good fortune to continue in your dear embraces, may you live in plenitude of joys, and may every thing that is propitious attend the lovely object of my wishes.

I am sorry to tell you, that I am obliged to publish not only your life, but my own too, and that very shortly; there is no avoiding it. My nearest relations, &c. will not look upon me, until I justify myself to the world, concerning our fatal amour, the which I must certainly do, by publishing the letters from me to you, and those dear, damned treacherous ones from you to me; likewise the letters of others to me upon our affair.

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affair. Happy it was for me in taking your advice, which was, viz. be sure keep all the letters you receive, and copies of those you write.

Your mamma, I find, will not pay me my just debt, so I must have patience, till I am able to take a recourse to law for it. So now I take my leave of you (who still is the sacred treasure of my soul, subscribing myself, dear angel,

Yours till Death,

Lond. Jan. 18, 1738-9.

JAMES PARRY.

P. S. I understand that you will be here soon; I shall be glad (as I shall know where you lodge) to see you, though but at a distance.

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